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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, Jordanians Discuss Economic Forum Agenda

TA0511061093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Economic delegations from Israel, Jordan, and the United States met last night in Paris to discuss the agenda of the first sessions of the Israeli-Jordanian economic forum which will convene in the United States in two weeks. Our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts reports that the delegations discussed the establishment of two panels: The first will deal with general issues, and the second will deal with specific projects.

The Israeli delegation, headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, also conferred with Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the head of the PLO delegation, in anticipation of the steering committee of the economic conference on aid to the Palestinians. This committee will meet today under the chairmanship of the Norwegian foreign minister.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Denounces Israeli Ruling on al-Aqsa

NC0411195293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat today denounced a ruling by Israel's Supreme Court which states that the holy al-Aqsa Mosque is a part of the State of Israel and that renovation and repair work within the mosque should be subjected to Israel's planning and construction law.

The Secretariat described the Israeli decision as a flagrant offense against the mosque's status, a usurpation of the authority of the Islamic awqaf [religious endowments department], and a violation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the Geneva Conventions concerning areas under occupation.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid issued a statement today saying that the Israeli decision is a serious violation of the UN resolutions concerning the status of Jerusalem. These resolutions, he added, consider illegitimate any measures or public works aiming to alter the legal status of Jerusalem or the holy places it contains.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th on Talks Suspension, Hopes for Progress

JN0411172793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1547 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba negotiations, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, from the "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: The crisis plaguing the Taba negotiations seems to have been resolved during the talks Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held with the prime minister and the foreign minister. What is your comment on this?

[Sha'th] As a matter of course, we are awaiting a meeting with Minister 'Amr Musa upon his return home. We hope he will have actually obtained something that will facilitate things, something that could prompt us to return to the negotiating table in Taba.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: You met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday. What message did you address to the prime minister through Musa?

[Sha'th] I informed Minister 'Amr Musa about the details of the situation that prompted us to request a suspension of the negotiations so the Israeli delegation could report to its superiors, and so we could report to our superiors in the PLO. This move was dictated by our feeling that the negotiations could have reached a dead end if the issue pertaining to the security concept was not clarified. We wanted to know how this concept is in keeping with the need for an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. The issue had nothing to do with details; it had something to do with the major concept. This is what we explained to Mr. 'Amr Musa, and what he must have communicated to Prime Minister Rabin.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Don't you think it would be better for the negotiations to be conducted away from the news media, as happened in Oslo?

[Sha'th] In Taba, we are open to world media in general, and to Israeli media in particular. This has some advantages. Many Israeli press and media people are in Taba. This has some advantages in an open society that allows for the free flow of information. However, it has some disadvantages. Sometimes issues are negotiated in the media, rather than at the negotiating table. Sometimes, this can be detrimental to the negotiating process.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Additional crises are bound to surface during the implementation of the agreement, thanks to the complications entailed in this agreement. Don't you think these crises must be resolved through negotiations within the context of the [Israeli-Palestinian] Committee?

[Sha'th] This is what we have done throughout the past three weeks. I believe we have created a course of action to achieve success as soon as possible. This is because these negotiations must produce results within a two-month timeframe. However, these negotiations have reached a point which, I believe, could not have been resolved by the two negotiating sides unassisted. We found it imperative that we report to the two concerned leaders. This is because there were differences on the

interpretation, not the implementation, of the agreement. Article 14 of the agreement provides for Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. With respect to the annex, it stipulates that Israel shall be responsible for the security of settlements. Efforts to effect a reconciliation between the achievement of withdrawal on the one hand, and ensuring the security of settlements on the other have reached a dead end. This is because the withdrawal idea has been shifted around and turned into a troop redeployment. This is counter to the agreement we signed. Consequently, we had to report to the leaders concerned.

It goes without saying that I strongly hope these negotiations will make progress. As far as we are concerned, we do not want to miss the historic opportunity created by the signing of this agreement. However, obtaining additional clarity in this regard has become a necessity that will spare us any future developments that could spoil all that we have started.

PLO Urges 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting To End Taba Impasse

NC0411215093 Paris AFP in English 2100 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, Nov 4 (AFP)—The PLO has called for a meeting in Cairo between its leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin within a week in a bid to end an impasse over Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Taba, Egypt.

"The PLO has asked Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to tell Israeli officials during his visit Thursday [4 November] to Tel Aviv of its wish for a meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee in the presence of Mr. 'Arafat and Mr. Rabin to end the impasse over the Taba negotiations," Salih Ra'fat, a Palestinian peace delegate, told AFP in Amman on Thursday.

The committee is chaired jointly by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee, who signed the autonomy deal with Israel.

In a statement Wednesday from the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott, 'Arafat held the Israelis responsible for the suspension of talks.

The PLO quit the Taba negotiations on Tuesday complaining that Israel was offering only to redeploy the army on the occupied Gaza Strip and not to withdraw in line with the September 13 limited self-rule agreement.

Israel proposed to pull back troops to three areas around Jewish settlements on the Gaza Strip while the Palestinians demanded a "general military withdrawal."

Ra'fat said the only way to end the crisis was for Israel to give up on its proposed withdrawal plan for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

He said the Palestinians "insist on a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho" in line with the autonomy agreement signed in Washington.

Prior to his return late Thursday to Cairo, Musa voiced hope for a prompt resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian talks at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

Rabin said earlier that Israel and the PLO had reached the "point of no return" in negotiations to implement their autonomy agreement.

"There will be ups and downs and perhaps even mini-crises," Rabin told reporters after a meeting of his ruling Labour party in Tel Aviv.

A senior Israeli foreign ministry official told AFP there was "every chance" the Taba negotiations would resume next week following talks between Rabin and Musa.

'Abd-Rabbuh Views Israeli Attempts To Foil Pact

NC0411125393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 4 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has stressed that the Israeli plan submitted at the Taba talks contradicts substantially the Palestinian-Israeli agreement because it slices off more than half of the Gaza Strip area on the premise that it belongs to the Jewish settlements. In a statement published today in the Tunisian paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, he said that Israel is replacing the withdrawal outlined in the agreement with a redeployment of its forces. He said that this plan divides the Gaza Strip, the area of which does not exceed 360 square km, into two isolated zones in the north and south. This plan, he said, is in line with the old Israeli concept calling for dividing the occupied Palestinian territories into several isolated cantons in order to make Palestinian territory lose geographic unity. The agreement emphasized that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip constitute a single geographic and regional unit.

'Abd-Rabbuh stated that the Israeli position would return the negotiations to square one. In addition, Israel is taking other measures, the most serious of which is continuing the construction of settlements in Arab East Jerusalem and keeping thousands of Palestinian detainees in jails and using them as hostages.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that Israel is risking the destruction of what he termed the historic opportunity to establish peace. He pointed out that the Palestinians cannot repeat the tragedy of the bilateral negotiations in Washington through stretching out the negotiations and stalling and wasting time on the pretext that the Israeli position may change gradually. He said: We signed an unequivocal agreement on the declaration of principles, noting that this agreement would not serve as an preliminary to legitimize the slicing off of another part of our homeland on the pretext of security or anything else. He said: Therefore, our final decision is either to hold

serious negotiations and work out the details and arrangements for Israeli withdrawal or not to go to the negotiations at all. He stressed that the stumbling block at the Taba meetings will affect the work of the other committees, because the key to a solution lies in withdrawal with the other issues coming later.

'Negotiations Back to Square One'

JN0511113993 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 4-5 Nov 93 p 21

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] After the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee decided to suspend its participation in the fourth round, can it be said that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have returned to square one? Can the Palestinian side accept a compromise, for example? Can we expect the intervention of a third party to realize this compromise, or are the concessions that led to the 13 September agreement the last of these compromises?

These questions and others were tackled by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in an exclusive statement to AKHIR KHABAR. He started by saying that the Israeli plan presented at the Taba talks essentially conflicts with the agreement because this plan slices off more than half of the Gaza Strip and affiliates this land with the Jewish settlements.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: The withdrawal stipulated in the agreement is replaced in the plan by a redeployment of Israeli forces. What is more dangerous is that the plan divides the Gaza Strip, which is no more than 300 square km, into two separate areas, one in the north, and the other in the south. This conforms with the old Israeli idea of dividing the occupied Palestinian territories into several cantons with the aim of depriving these territories of their geographic unity. The agreement stresses that the West Bank and Gaza Strip constitute one geographic and territorial unity.

The PLO Executive Committee member said what the Israelis dub as security arrangements aim at total isolation of the Gaza Strip from the world, and places entrances by land, sea, and air under Israeli control.

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed the belief that this Israeli position brings the negotiations back to square one. He referred to other Israeli measures, noting that the most serious of these are the continued settlement activities in Arab east Jerusalem and the detention of thousands of Palestinian prisoners. He said they are being used as hostages, noting that Israeli logic links their release with progress in the negotiations.

The Palestinian leader emphasized that the PLO will not accept anything less than full withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho area, the deployment of Israeli occupation forces in specific points in the rest of the occupied territories, and a halt to settlement in Jerusalem, especially in light of the new Likud-led municipal council.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that Israel is risking what he called an historic chance to make peace, explaining that the Palestinians cannot repeat the tragedy of bilateral negotiations in Washington with the continued negotiations, prevarications, and wastes of time on the assumption that the Israeli position will gradually change.

He added: We have signed a clear declaration of principles, and this accord will not be used as a legal gateway to allow other parts of our homeland to be sliced off under the pretext of security or any other pretexts. Therefore, our final position is either to have serious negotiations to work out the details of the Israeli withdrawal, or not to have negotiations at all.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that this Palestinian position does not seek to force a third party to intervene and mediate, in an apparent reference to the United States and Egypt. He said this would mean that people would think we want a compromise between our position and that of Israel. The compromise has already been reached in the agreement, and what is needed now is to implement it and not to look for another solution.

Answering a question on the possible dates for convening meetings of other committees, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: No dates have been fixed yet for the meetings of the economic committee or the committee assigned with arrangements for the transitional stage, and said the obstacles in the Taba talks will reflect on the activities of other committees because withdrawal is the key to the solution, and the other issues come next.

'Arafat Establishes Palestinian Economic Council

LD0411183793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has issued a decision to set up the Economic Council for Development and Construction [al-Majlis al-Iqtisadi li'l-Tanmiyyah wa'l-I'mar] with the chairmanship and membership of a number of political, intellectual and economic personalities and leaderships from inside and outside the occupied territories. A number of departments assisting it will be part of this body. Here follows the text of the decision:

First: the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Construction will be set up under the chairmanship of the brother President Yasir 'Arafat.

a) The Council will assume the operations for defining the priorities of economic and social development and construction and the priorities of development projects. It will assume also the implementation, control and management of these projects on the basis of transparency, clarity, and competence.

b) The council is composed of political, intellectual, and economic personalities and leaderships among Palestinians from inside and outside our occupied land.

Second: the board of governors will be composed of the following members and will be responsible to the head of the national authority, the PLO chairman:

1. Brother Faruq Qaddumi—vice chairman
2. Brother Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi—vice chairman
3. Brother Ahmad Quray'—delegated member and director general
4. Brother Dr. Sari Nusaybah—assistant director general
5. Brother Dr. Yusuf al-Sayigh—member
6. Brother Dr. Antoine Zahalan—member
7. Brother Ibrahim al-Daqqaq—member
8. Brother Nabil al-Sharif—member
9. Brother Dr. Muhammad al-Samhuri—member
10. Brother Dr. Khalil al-Hindi—member
11. Brother Dr. Sufyan Sultan—member
12. Brother Tahir Kan'an—member
13. Brother Mustafa Murtaja—member
14. Brother Dr. Nabil Qasis—member

Third: The following administrations will be attached to this Authority: The Administration of the Economic Policies and the Selection of Projects; the Administration of Coordinating and Facilitating the arrival of Aid; the Administration of Supervising and Management of Projects; the Administration of Management and Auxiliary Services; the Administration of Technical Assistance and Training; any other administrations required by the nature of the work.

Fourth: The Authority will draw up the internal statute and the work procedure of the administration and will decide the appointments according to the operative procedures and regulations.

Fifth: This decision will come into force as of its date, and will be communicated to all those who are required to implement it.

'Arafat: Al-Hammah 'Integral' Part of West Bank

TA0411190193 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat considers the region of al-Hammah, situated southeast of Lake Tiberias, an integral part of the West Bank. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen has learned that this matter was recently raised in talks between the PLO leader and senior Israeli officials.

Palestinian sources confirmed to us that this issue was indeed raised in the talks; however, since the PLO has no desire to initiate a confrontation with Syrian President al-Asad, it will not present its position in the form of an ultimatum.

Rejectionist Leader on 'Damascus-Baghdad-Tehran Axis'

JN0511094893 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 6 Nov 93 P 14

[Interview with Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah, "second-in-command" of Fatah-the Uprising Organization, by 'Imad al-Dik in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Dik] Have you been subjected to any pressures because of your position on the [Gaza-Jericho] agreement?

[Al-'Amlah] Absolutely not, absolutely not. We believe that most of the Arab rulers think that their survival is linked to their alliance with the Zionist entity. However, there are some Arab regimes that are forced and have no interest in what is going on. We believe that Jordan belongs to this latter category, and we believe it has another opinion in what is proposed. If things were different, Jordan would have had another position. We stress that certain regimes in the Arab homeland have no interest and are trying to bring about the conditions that would hold back the threats at the current phase. We wager on building the "Damascus-Baghdad-Tehran Axis" to face the collapse. If we can build this axis, we will be able to strongly face the capitulation plan.

[Al-Dik] As factions that reject settlement with Israel, do you not think that you will face a dilemma if the other Arab parties sign agreements with the Zionists similar to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-'Amlah] Undoubtedly, we take all possibilities into consideration. If this or that country, willingly or unwillingly, accept an agreement, then our nation will have to find the necessary militant forms in all arenas to keep the conflict alive. Even if we as individuals are prevented here or there, we believe that as long as there is an occupation, the conflict will continue. How will it continue? That depends on the developments and circumstances. The people will have to find suitable ways to respond to the new developments.

[Al-Dik] The [Iraqi-backed] Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has withdrawn from the PLO and announced that it is joining the forces that reject the agreement. How will you coordinate with it?

[Al-'Amlah] We have specified a set of principles within the 10 factions framework. We are not against any faction working in the arena that takes a clear stand on what is going on. Any party that supports the PLO National Charter and the national principles will have no problem in being with the 10 factions, whether that party is the ALF or any other party.

[Al-Dik] Was there any contact between the 10 factions and the ALF leadership?

[Al-'Amlah] We are now holding a dialogue with some factions, but there has not been any contact yet between the ALF and the 10 factions. [passage omitted]

Release of PLO Allowances Seen as 'Breakthrough'

PM0411125493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Signs of 'Financial Breakthrough' in Camps; PLO Allowances Reach Martyrs' and Fighters' Families"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Palestinian sources have disclosed that Colonel Badi' Karim's assumption of Fatah leadership in Lebanon in place of Munir al-Maqdah coincided with the Tunis-based PLO leadership's initiative to release some of the allowances due to the martyrs' and fighters' families.

The sources emphasized to AL-HAYAH that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat ordered that three months' allowances be paid to the families of martyrs and the war wounded and handicapped. The competent quarters have begun to pay the salaries as of this month.

The sources pointed out that the payment of allowances and compensations included Fatah fighters and security officials, especially in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp and al-Rashidiyah in southern Lebanon. 'Arafat ordered that they be paid the allowances of seven months—the period for which PLO employees have not received salaries.

The sources said that the PLO leadership also recommended that financial assistance totaling $5 million be paid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to compensate those affected by the recent Israeli aggression and to repair the houses destroyed or damaged. Regarding education, the PLO has agreed to pay all its debts in order to reopen the schools belonging to it in 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Rashidiyah.

Commenting on the release of allowances and assistance for Palestinians in Lebanon—seven months after their disappearance—a Palestinian leader in 'Ayn al-Hulwah said that the "situation has become acceptable and much better than before. We hope that the breakthrough at this level will continue, to enable us to reorganize our domestic conditions."

He said that 'Arafat's initiative "will help to calm the situation in the wake of the organizational decisions he issued, which affected primarily some Fatah officials in 'Ayn al-Hulwah." He described the relationship between al-Maqdah and his successor, Karim, as "normal."

Failure To Hold Conference in Jerusalem Criticized

PM0411124093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p 6

[Ruba al-Husari report: "Al-Husayni: We Wasted Opportunity To Hold First Palestinian Investment Conference in Jerusalem, Offering It To Israelis"]

[Excerpt] Occupied Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni blamed Palestinian officials in Tunis—without naming them—for wasting the opportunity to hold the first economic conference in occupied Jerusalem for Palestinian investors from inside the occupied territories and abroad, thus giving Israel the opportunity to adopt the idea of holding a similar conference. However, he noted that the workshop to prepare for the second Palestinian investment conference will convene on 19 November, but the conference's date and venue are still unknown.

Al-Husayni told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the second Palestinian investment conference was supposed to be held in occupied Jerusalem before the end of this year, but it was deferred "because some people feared that that might confuse the situation and create a kind of normalization with the Israelis prematurely."

He added that his adoption of the idea of holding the conference in Arab Jerusalem "to bolster the Palestinian presence there"—the first conference was held in Tunis two years ago—stemmed from "the need to register an important political point, namely that Jerusalem is the Palestinian people's capital, hence the capital of the future Palestinian state, so there is no need to fear the normalization question, because we want to acquaint the Israelis with the fact that the Palestinians have a right to Jerusalem." [passage omitted]

Bal'awi Statement Explains Yasin's Arrest, Background

NC0411192593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 4 Nov (MENA)—Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia, announced today that 'Adnan Yasin, who is accused of spying for Israel and who was an employee of the Palestinian Embassy in Tunis, was arrested for involvement with hostile agencies. Bal'awi described him as an "ordinary attache" working at administrative duties in the embassy who was not deputy ambassador as some media have claimed, and had no connection whatever with the Palestinian security apparatus.

In the first official statement by a PLO official on this issue, Bal'awi said that 'Adnan Yasin's job duties did not include anything connected with essential political or security affairs. He added that Yasin's conduct had raised eyebrows and he was removed from duties pertaining to the supervision of day-to-day affairs. He was placed under surveillance because of his suspicious behavior, which finally connected him to crime. Bal'awi said Yasin will be put on trial, as he deserves.

Bal'awi added that the suspect had been given repeated warnings about his bad and disgraceful conduct and that he had been suspended from his job on several occasions.

Algeria

40 'Fundamentalists' Die in Security Operations

LD0411213393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In the past few days, the security forces, reinforced by special army units, were heavily deployed and carried out large-scale searches. These army units, along with the security forces, were deployed from the district of Badjarah in Algiers to the region of Larba [35 km southwest of Algiers] and these districts were placed under their strict surveillance. Over to Ameur Bahloul:

[Bahloul] [words indistinct] saw an unusual movement of the security forces throughout the various districts of the capital, particularly after the kidnapping of the three French nationals. Following this kidnapping, the security forces were deployed in force, starting from the spot where the French nationals were abducted. As a result, the number of checkpoints was increased and several districts in the capital were combed. The security forces, which were carrying out their operation according to a plan, acted discreetly when hunting down the terrorist group responsible for the kidnapping.

After a whole week, the efforts of the security forces paid off with the release of two French hostages, the killing of elements of the group, and the discovery of the identity of the remaining terrorists who carried out the operation. [passage omitted]

In the field, the security forces, made up of special army units, gendarmerie, and police units, intensified their search and surveillance operations in the past few days. Only yesterday, the districts of Badjarah, (?Les Villiers), Oued Ouchaih, and other districts near Algiers were surrounded by the security forces. Residents in these districts noticed these movements that led to the arrest of several terrorists who were on the wanted list.

[Paris Radio France International in French at 1830 GMT on 4 November broadcasts the following related report: "In Algeria, 24 hours after the vast searches carried out by the army southeast of the capital, the authorities have still not published the result of this operation in which tanks and helicopters were used. On the other hand, they have announced that between Sunday and Tuesday many operations carried out in various parts of the country left 40 dead in the ranks of the fundamentalists, and this figure was given by an official source."]

Egypt

U.S. Envoy Oakley Arrives for Brief Visit

NC0411215993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Robert Oakley, the U.S. President's special envoy to Somalia, arrived in Cairo for a brief visit tonight. He will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa about the current efforts to solve the Somali crisis.

Meets With Musa

NC0511065393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with U.S. envoy to Somalia Robert Oakley last night in the presence of the U.S. ambassador in Cairo. They discussed the developments in Somalia and efforts to achieve security and stability there.

Musa said after the meeting that he had explained Egypt's stand on the developments in Somalia, a stand based on the need to achieve national reconciliation, the disarming of all Somali factions and their participation in national reconciliation, and starting the search for a solution by 31 March, the date of the U.S. forces withdrawal from Somalia.

Musa added that the solution of the Somali issue must not be linked to certain individuals and affirmed Egypt's support for the UN role in Somalia. He also affirmed the need for the peacekeeping forces to initiate a solution in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the Addis Ababa reconciliation conference.

Replying to a question on new positive elements in the Somali situation, Musa said that a cease-fire, its continuation, and a better understanding of the UN role are considered positive elements but are not enough to achieve national reconciliation. He warned of the possibility of Somalia returning to square one if no plan is devised and no international consensus reached on working for a solution.

Musa answered a question on the UN secretary general's statement that his envoy had not achieved tangible results in solving the Somali problem. Musa said: This confirms the difficulty of the situation and that what has been achieved so far does not call for optimism.

Oakley said he briefed the foreign minister on the development of situation in Somalia. Concerning disarming the Somali factions, he said there is a resolution in this regard but it has not been implemented.

Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Lockerbie

NC0411133193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Talks between President Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, began at Sidi Barrani in Marsa Matruh this morning. Our radio correspondent has learned that the talks dealt with reaching a peaceful settlement of the Libyan-Western crisis that satisfies all the parties. Discussion also centered on President Mubarak's recent trip to the United States, France, and Syria and developments in the Middle East in light of the

ongoing peace talks among the various Arab parties and Israel. The two leaders also discussed ways to consolidate bilateral cooperation in every area.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi and his accompanying delegation arrived earlier this morning at the al-Sallum crossing point at the Egyptian-Libyan border to spend a few hours in Egypt. He was welcomed by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and the Marsa Matruh chief of security on behalf of the governor. From the border, Minister al-Sharif accompanied Col. al-Qadhdhafi to the headquarters of the western military zone in Sidi Barrani, where President Mubarak was due to receive him. Col. al-Qadhdhafi was accorded an official reception following which the two Arab leaders began their talks.

The Egyptian and Libyan delegations held a round of talks. The Egyptian delegation comprises Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communication; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The Libyan delegation includes Revolution Command Council members Colonels Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. It also includes Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Unity [title as heard], and Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League. [passage omitted]

JANA Reports on Talks

LD0411203893 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Sidi Barrani, al Harth [Nov] 4, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—A session of Egyptian-Libyan consultations took place this morning in the region of Sidi Barrani in Marsa Matruh attended by Col. Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Staff Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Unity, Sulayman Mutawalli [Sulayman], the Egyptian minister of transport and civilian airlines, Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of information, Salah [as received] Hasaballah [al-Kalliwi], the minister of housing and utilities, Kamal al-Shadhili, the minister of state for peoples assembly and shura council affairs, and the deputy foreign minister and head of the president's office for political affairs, Usama al-Baz.

During this session of consultations, the two sides studied several joint projects drawn up by the two countries involving various sectors. The most important of these projects are those to establish transport and telecommunications systems and the plan to build a railroad between the Great Jamahiriya and Egypt with the aim of encouraging further co-operation between the two countries, to encourage joint investment and to co-ordinate trade between the two countries, housing projects and public utilities.

News Conference Held

NC0411183093 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1604 GMT 4 Nov 93

[News conference by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, with unidentified correspondents following their talks in Sidi Barrani today—recorded]

[Text] [Mubarak] I would like to welcome the brother colonel to the western zone. This is a good opportunity. The brother colonel came to congratulate us on our reelection for a third presidential term in office. I thank him and the members of the Revolution Command Council who honored us here in this, their second country.

[Correspondent] Did the talks deal with the Lockerbie issue?

[Mub.-rak] We discussed many topics during the talks, but to reach a sound solution to an issue such as the Lockerbie one, we should not go into detail on delicate issues.

[Correspondent] Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the world is watching your meeting today with President Husni Mubarak following his visit to the United States and France. Did President Mubarak bring you anything new regarding the Lockerbie problem?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Lockerbie issue is not always our primary concern. We consider it a very minor, secondary issue. It may be sensational for the media. What really concerns us is the cause of our nation, its future, its position in the new world, the issue of world peace, world stability, and a new world order that fulfills the people's aspirations and hopes. We look forward to relations marked by mutual respect between the East and West, Arabs and Westerners, and Islam and Christianity; noninterventism in our domestic affairs; securing the people's safety, stability, and hopes; making the Mediterranean, which our two countries overlook, a sea of tourism, trade, and cooperation; canceling fleets, military bases, intervention in others' affairs, and renouncing war.

I believe these are our primary concerns. European unity, Arab unity, African unity, and the United States as a single superpower and the need for it to play a positive role that could reassure people, not terrify or disturb them as in the past before Bush; and the need for it to use its capabilities to assist people. These are the issues we see as basic and fundamental, not Lockerbie. Lockerbie is a very strange file that belongs to the past. If we want to return to the file of Lockerbie, we must restore the things that existed when the Lockerbie incident occurred. The Lockerbie incident took place when the Soviet Union was in existence, so we must bring back the Soviet Union to see what its relation to Lockerbie was. It took place when the hostage war in Lebanon existed, so we must bring back the hostage war in

Lebanon—God forbid—to see what relation it had to Lockerbie; we must bring back the civil war in Chad and bring [former Chadian president] Habre back to Chad to see its relation with the UTA [flight], that took off from Chad and crashed in Niger; we must bring back Gorbachev, and Reagan to the United States, because certainly he is related to Lockerbie; we must bring back the Iran-Iraq war, because it was going on at the time and the United States shot down an Iranian plane because of the military tension in the region. We have to bring back all these things for us to know where the Lockerbie file fits in all these events. But to leave the whole world and focus on the Lockerbie file and bring it back to a new world such as ours.... [sentence incomplete as heard]. It is indeed a very strange file.

Arm twisting does not work, in general. In particular, it does not work with Libya. Libya is interested in a just and fair trial for the suspects. We are in a hurry to have this trial. We do not want to waste time because wasting time means prolonging the blockade and embargo against Libya. Libya does not want to waste any time. It wants to prove its innocence quickly. We want a quick trial of the suspects. However, we disagree on the form of this trial. This proves that there is no intention to resolve the problem. We agree on the essence—the trial of the suspects. This is the essence. As for whether the trial will be held in this place or that place and the insistence that it be held here and not there, this is a procedural matter. It means that the press does not want the problem to be solved. This is a policy of arm twisting, which actually will not work with Libya. Ultimately, if we put them on trial, we will emerge innocent before the world.

We have come to congratulate President Husni Mubarak on the great confidence and overwhelming support that the Egyptian people gave him for a third presidential term. The Egyptian people are the largest Arab people. Egypt is the largest Arab state. This confidence places great responsibilities on President Mubarak toward the Arab nation. Egypt has always shouldered these responsibilities. We believe President Husni Mubarak deserves this role. The Egyptian people and Egypt are qualified to play this pan-Arab role. The Arab nation needs someone who can gather its scattered ranks and find it a place in the world, especially because the world is turning into large blocs. Close by, the European Community now makes up a political, military, and economic power in Europe. We are scattered. The United States is strong. Japan is strong. A strong tiger bloc is emerging in Asia. The world is becoming tigers and lions; we must not be rabbits and deer in this world.

[Correspondent, in English] I am asking on behalf of ABC news. If you don't mind, I'll ask you in English. First of all, what is the Libyan position concerning the Lockerbie affair now that the deadline for upgrading the sanctions is very much approaching. The second one is about reports of the coup attempt in Libya. We would like to have it from you personally.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] On this occasion, the sister reminded me of this fabrication issued against Libya. In fact, the Libyan people are angry because they rule themselves by themselves. They do not have a government, a front, a party, a wing, or a tribe. The Libyan people have popular authority. Libya is a Jamahiriyah. The Jamahiriyah state rules itself by itself. There are people's congresses and committees. They do not stage coups against themselves. Who will stage a coup against whom? Libya has hundreds of people's committees. All the people, age 18 and older, male and female, exercise their authority. Congresses decide and people's committees implement. Therefore, who stages a coup against whom? There is no government, in fact. Anyone who has an opinion holds power. He is a member of a people's congress and can speak his mind.

Libya does not have an army; it has an armed people. We only heard of it from London [BBC] radio. Regrettably, this radio has lost its credibility. Through it, we used to hear the news about other countries. Now, we in Libya cannot believe London's news. It has broadcast groundless lies about us. Therefore, how can we believe London's radio when it gives news about Georgia, Nigeria, Haiti, and other countries in the world? In fact, this radio has regrettably lost its credibility. It has become clear that this radio belongs to British intelligence. It misleads the public and has colonialist leanings. This has become clear. It is enough that it has said ... [sentence incomplete as heard] Where are our officers? [Al-Qadhdhafi looks around] It said that he is the coup leader. Here is Colonel al-Rifi. I have brought him [laughter], specifically to prove London radio's lies and prevarications. Raise your hand. Here is the colonel.

[Mubarak, interrupting] He is the one who led the coup. [laughter]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The one behind him is a lieutenant colonel. London radio mentioned his name. It said he was arrested and executed. Here are two executed men. [laughter]

[Correspondent] The Security Council will meet next week to approve sanctions against Libya. The Lockerbie issue may be a secondary issue, as you have stated, but what measures will you take if these sanctions are applied?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is an injustice. We will carry on. We will not change our stand. We do not consider this resolution—if it is issued—to be a Security Council resolution. It is a decision by the colonialist countries against former colonies. They want to weaken the former colonies. They do not want them to rise and progress. This is our interpretation in Libya. No matter how tight these sanctions might become, Libya will not change its stance. Therefore, it is no use. Libya, as a state, is not at fault.

It said: Let the suspects go to any country, even the United States. The suspects said: No, we will not go to

the United States or Britain because they are hostile countries. The charges are fabricated, and they might falsely convict us.

They are right. Their lawyers said we will not allow them to travel. There can be no just trial for them in the United States or Britain. Therefore, what is Libya's fault? Would it handcuff them and send them there? No country would handcuff its citizens and hand them over to its enemy. This is impossible. They want to try them; let them try them. Sanctions are not related to this issue; they are considered an imperialist act.

[Correspondent] What significance does this visit have on the brotherly relations between the two peoples?

[Mubarak] Egypt and Libya have very good fraternal relations that are proceeding on a sound course. There is no problem between Egypt and Libya whatsoever.

[Correspondent] What do you think about the failure of the Palestinian-Israeli talks at Taba?

[Mubarak] We must know that the mere signing of the Declaration of Principles does not mean that the road is now strewn with roses. The road is more difficult than that of Camp David. It will require difficult negotiations, but there must be perseverance and insistence on engaging in negotiations. However, ultimately, I expect that the brother Palestinians and the Israelis will reach satisfactory solutions.

Al-Qadhdhafi Concludes Talks

NC0411154993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Al-Sallum, 4 Nov (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, left al-Sallum for Tripoli today after holding talks with President Husni Mubarak at the military base in Sidi Barrani. Col. al-Qadhdhafi was seen off by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Musa Returns From Israel, Conveys Rabin Message

NC0411174393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Shortly after he returned from Israel this afternoon, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa submitted a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on his short visit to Israel. The foreign minister also conveyed a message from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in reply to President Mubarak's message.

In an arrival statement, 'Amr Musa said that President Mubarak's message to Rabin dealt with Egypt's concept of the peace negotiations. The message also touched on the Taba talks, the reasons the talks halted, and the topics under discussion between the Palestinian and Israel sides and the difficult points of these topics, Musa said.

Continuing, the foreign minister said that the message alluded to the Syrian-Israeli track and the need to activate it. He pointed out that the message also dealt with the Lebanese and Jordanian tracks and the means to steer the peace process along a sound course to achieve full peace on all tracks.

Ambassador Basyuni Views Talks

NC0511095093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 5 November—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's intense talks during his brief visit to Israel yesterday came at an important and crucial time, when the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track is snarled and talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track by the Gaza-Jericho Committee have broken down temporarily.

As you were a member of the Egyptian delegation to these talks, did Musa propose anything new to the Israelis to advance this peace process on all tracks?

[Basyuni] To begin with, I would like to affirm that Musa's visit to Israel yesterday was very successful and achieved its goals. First, on the Syrian track, Minister Musa conveyed a message from President Mubarak to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin concerning the Syrian track and ways to advance on that track because, as you know, we want to achieve progress on all tracks so that we can reach the desired goal—a comprehensive, durable, and just peace in the region.

As for the Palestinian track, a declaration of principles was signed on 13 September; and an agreement on the agenda for the Jordanian track was signed on 14 September. Therefore, we hope that a declaration of principles will (?also) be signed with Syria and with the Lebanese brothers.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do we understand from your statement that the president's message contained new proposals that Foreign Minister Musa raised with the Israeli officials, and did these proposals draw any response from the Israeli leadership during the talks?

[Basyuni] As you know, the Syrian track is absolutely clear, but of course there is a difference between the words clear and difficult. The Syrian track is clear—there must be a full withdrawal if a full peace is desired, with security arrangements that would guarantee security for both sides. Thus, there must be a complete withdrawal in order for a complete peace to exist; and this could happen with mutual agreement. The aim now is to bring the views closer together in order to achieve this—a complete withdrawal in return for complete peace. That is why Minister Musa came here yesterday with a message from the president to the Israeli Prime Minister on these issues, on ways to proceed, and with some ideas. As you know, moves are being made:

Yitzhaq Rabin will go to meet with President Clinton on the 12th, followed by a tour by Secretary Christopher, and messages have been exchanged between the president and the Israeli prime minister, all of which aim to advance the Syrian track, God willing.

[Abu-al-Majd] You mentioned intense consultations and contacts to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. As a participant in these consultations and contacts as Egypt's ambassador in Israel, you may not be able to reveal the new proposals, but can we say that there will be progress on this track by the end of this year, based on what you know of these proposals?

[Basyuni] God willing, progress will take place on the Syrian track in three-to-four months toward signing a declaration of principles. Why are we optimistic? We are optimistic because promoting the Syrian track depends on three basic elements—the first is land, the second peace, and the third security arrangements acceptable to both sides.

As for the land, the issue in question is withdrawal. Syria demands a complete withdrawal from Golan and Israel has agreed on the principle of withdrawal, but it said it will not define the extent of the withdrawal unless Syria announces what it means by the term complete peace. Therefore, the issue of land itself is on the negotiating table.

As for the second point, concerning peace, Israel wants to hear what Syria means by the term complete peace. Hence, Syria agrees on the issue of peace but before spelling out the extent of this peace and the meaning of a full peace, Syria is waiting to hear the words complete withdrawal. Thus, the element of peace itself is also on the negotiating table.

As far as the third element—the security arrangements—is concerned, the two sides are in agreement on discussing security arrangements that might achieve security for both sides; and this is a source of optimism.

[Abu-al-Majd] What about the Palestinian-Israeli track now that the Egyptian foreign minister has had talks in Israel? Will there be progress on this track now?

[Basyuni] As for the Palestinian track, the suspension of the Taba talks last week was not due to [words indistinct] of these important, sensitive, and practical talks, but was rather a measure to allow consultations. When it proposed its plan, Israel looked at it from its own point of view and considered that it provides adequate solutions to the security problem. This plan is not divine, but is subject to discussion and negotiations; therefore, Minister Musa was able to bring the views closer.

God willing, the Taba talks will resume next week as scheduled, because there is a plan and a timetable for implementing the Gaza-Jericho Accord. Any delay in implementing this plan will lead to a delay in the withdrawal. Israel's withdrawal from Gaza is supposed to begin in December and is to be completed on 13 April. We hope that we will maintain the momentum. We must remember that we are in the process of reaching a provisional stage of agreement, not the final stage.

Interior Minister Visits Palestinian Police

NC0411220293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi visited the members of the Palestinian police force who are studying at the Police Academy. They have been sent by the state of Palestine to undergo training in police work before they assume security tasks in the areas from which Israel will withdraw.

The interior minister assured himself about the training operations and the accommodations for the Palestinian personnel.

Saudi Defense Minister Continues Visit

Cooperation Talks Open

NC0411131093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian-Saudi military talks opened in Cairo this morning. The Egyptian side is headed by Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, and the Saudi side by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation. [passage omitted]

The talks are dealing with ways to promote military cooperation and issues of mutual concern.

Joint Maneuvers Agreed

NC0411152293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Saudi Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, and Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, have agreed that the Egyptian and Saudi naval forces will conduct joint maneuvers in the Red Sea in view of the importance of this sea to the two countries.

In a joint news conference at the end of their talks today, Prince Sultan said that the military maneuvers do not mean that we intend to control the Red Sea. Instead, we seek fruitful cooperation between the two largest countries overlooking the Red Sea to safeguard its security, Prince Sultan added.

The Saudi prince added that he and Field Marshal Tantawi agreed that joint Egyptian-Saudi military delegations will visit each other to promote joint cooperation and exchange expertise. He said that a delegation of the Saudi armed forces will visit Egypt in the next few weeks

to benefit from Egyptian military know-how. He noted that an Egyptian delegation will visit Saudi Arabia for the same purpose.

Prince Sultan pointed out that during the visit, the Saudi delegation will discuss ways to enhance joint cooperation in the field of war industry with Egyptian officials. This, he added, will serve the interests of the two countries, noting that Saudi Arabia has already begun to introduce some modern war industries. He said that the delegation will discuss the possibility of Saudi Arabia obtaining some weapons produced in Egypt.

At the news conference, the Saudi prince said that his talks with Field Marshal Tantawi today were constructive and served as a follow-up to previous talks held during the ongoing visits between the defense ministers. He said that he agreed with Field Marshal Tantawi to give careful consideration to every joint agreement, because any agreement that is carefully studied will survive. The Saudi minister affirmed that Egypt and Saudi Arabia are working hard to serve the Arab and Islamic worlds and their common interests. He praised Egyptian-Saudi relations and the efforts being made by President Husni Mubarak and King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, to promote these relations.

For his part, Field Marshal Tantawi said that Egyptian-Saudi cooperation aims to ensure the security of the Red Sea and will serve as an example of cooperation between the Red Sea's two largest littoral states. He expressed hope that other littoral countries will follow this example and promote cooperation.

Field Marshal Tantawi said careful study is needed to ensure the success of any c[]operation, adding that his talks with Prince Sultan have produced good results. The Egyptian defense minister said cooperation will begin immediately. We have agreed to the exchange of expertise, joint training, and cooperation in military production, he stated.

Field Marshal Tantawi said Egyptian-Saudi cooperation is an ongoing process based on a firm, sound foundation.

Asked about the possible dangers involved in a Gulf country acquiring modern submarines and the effect of that acquisition on the region's security, Field Marshal Tantawi said the regional balance of power will not change simply because one country buys a modern weapon; other countries have enough weapons to deter that one country from using its weapon.

Tantawi pointed to the close cooperation among Arab countries, particularly in time of need. Arab forces, he said, can confront any weapon. We do not fret over these weapons and can deter them, Tantawi said, recalling the successful cooperation among Arab countries during the Gulf war.

The Egyptian defense minister said the task of Egyptian and Saudi troops in Somalia is humanitarian. We do not fight the Somali people or support one faction against another. The Arabs have a duty to save this brotherly Arab and Muslim country from famine and calamities. Tantawi added that our forces in Somalia do not use weapons except in self defense.

Field Marshal Tantawi stressed that Egyptian forces are instructed not to respond to any attack before ascertaining beyond doubt that it is not an unintentional attack.

Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said the Saudi forces' task in Somalia is humanitarian. We did not go to Somalia to fight the Somalis, the prince said. He called on all Somalis to sit down together and seek a peaceful settlement of the country's problem.

Mubarak, King Fahd View Arab, Regional Issues

NC0411182993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this evening from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. During their telephone conversation, the two leaders reviewed the results of President Mubarak's recent tour of the United States, France, and Syria, and his talks with the leaders of these countries on current Arab and regional issues. They also exchanged views on the Middle East peace issue, the position of the Arab and Israeli sides in the peace talks, the situation in Somalia, the Libyan-Western crisis, and the deteriorating conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Received by Officials

Hands Mubarak Message

NC0411123693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Nigerian Foreign Minister Chief Matthew Mbu this morning. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the meeting.

The Nigerian foreign minister said afterward that he handed President Mubarak a written message from Nigerian President Ernest Shonekan. He also conveyed the Nigerian president's greetings and congratulations to President Mubarak on his reelection for a third term in office and his appreciation of Mubarak's great efforts to solve African problems, especially those of Somalia and Burundi. He said he exchanged views with President Mubarak on issues of mutual concern. He also conveyed the Nigerian president's wish to meet President Mubarak in Cairo.

On events in Nigeria, he said there is stability and he discussed this with President Mubarak.

Official Egyptian-Nigerian talks chaired by 'Amr Musa and Mbu began today.

Discusses Somalia With Musa

NC0411222493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2154 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian-Nigerian talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa led the Egyptian delegation and Chief Mbu headed the Nigerian delegation.

The two ministers discussed current African issues in light of Egypt's efforts to solve African crises in its capacity as the current OAU chairman. They also discussed bilateral ties, how to promote them in various spheres, and ways of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

After the meeting, the Nigerian foreign minister said that the talks dealt with developments in Somalia and the current efforts to effect a national reconciliation among all Somali factions in line with OAU resolutions.

He added that they discussed the situation in Burundi and the prospects of ending the violence and restoring peace, stability, and legality to that country.

The two ministers held their first meeting this morning.

Comments on Somalia

NC0511114793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Nigerian Foreign Minister Matthew Mbu has praised the outcome of his talks with President Husni Mubarak as "fruitful and constructive" and said that they dealt with the situation in Africa and an exchange of views on issues of mutual concern.

In an interview with MENA before leaving Cairo for home this morning, he said his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa dealt with current African and Arab issues, especially the mechanism for resolving African disputes.

He added that agreement was reached on having the office responsible for resolving disputes hold a 2-day meeting in Addis Ababa on 15 November to discuss the outcome of the OAU Secretariat's work in this regard.

He noted that peacekeeping is the main concern of the African continent and emphasized the need to maintain peace between warring parties in various areas of Africa by resolving their crises peacefully and not by war.

On the future of Egyptian-Nigerian relations, he said ties in political and cultural spheres are growing continuously, while ties must be consolidated in the economic and trade sectors. He invited Egyptian businessmen to visit Nigeria to get acquainted with investment prospects there, thereby reciprocating a recent visit by Nigerian businessmen to Egypt.

He explained that there are numerous prospects for cooperation between Egypt and Nigeria, especially in building dams, where they could benefit from Egypt's long-standing experience in this field. He expressed hope that the Egyptian-Nigerian Technical Committee, which last met in Cairo in 1991, will convene in Lagos next year.

He said the trade balance is in Egypt's favor because Nigeria imports large quantities of cotton, [word indistinct], textiles and leather from Egypt; and there is also cooperation in various agricultural spheres and training. He added that cultural cooperation between the two countries focuses on education and scholarships at al-Azhar.

He praised Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi's efforts to achieve reconciliation in Somalia under a mandate from the OAU. He expressed his hope that President Zenawi will pursue his efforts to bring back the rival parties to the negotiating table in order to achieve peace in their country.

He noted the need to assert the Arab League's and OAU's role in Somalia more than the role of any other party, especially the United Nations, because this issue touches them more directly than others. He urged the rival parties in Somalia to give up their arms and provide humanitarian aid to save their people from famine and death, because without peace, such efforts will be fruitless.

He regretted events in Liberia, Burundi, and Angola and said if rival factions there are not disarmed, conflicts will not stop. Things will only change by halting the fighting and respecting peace accords in order to enable the nations to coexist in security and peace.

Commenting on the situation in South Africa, he said a lot of changes have happened there, noting the need to build confidence between the various parties to hold elections, apply democracy, and benefit from the available peace opportunities.

The Nigerian foreign minister affirmed that the situation in his country is stable and said that the government is preparing for presidential elections on 19 February, which is the current government's primary task. He pointed out that there are no obstacles in this regard; and if there is some opposition, that is how democracy works.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Departs

NC0511110993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0856 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Nigerian Foreign Minister Matthew Mbu left Cairo this morning after a 2-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Cited on University Disturbances

NC0411191293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Following yesterday's demonstrations by Cairo University students protesting the restrictions on their activities and the detention of a number of students, the Egyptian regime's security forces encircled the Cairo University campus today.

Students in Alexandria University recently staged similar demonstrations to protest the expulsion of 500 students from the campus dormitories. Twenty students were wounded in clashes with the security forces.

It is worth noting that Egyptian authorities have for some time now banned the use of veils by female students in Asyut University.

Fugitive 'Terrorist' Arrested in Upper Egypt

NC0411171093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Security forces have arrested the fugitive terrorist al-Muntasir al-Amir Muhammad Bahr in the village of Tumas in Isna District [in Qina Governorate] after locating and then storming his hideout in the middle of farm land.

An Interior Ministry security source announced that this terrorist is wanted in connection with the burning of the National Circus in Luxor, assaulting and seriously wounding two sentries, and assassinating undercover policeman Mukhtar Ahmad Muhammad.

The source said that State Security detectives are continuing their campaigns to arrest fugitive terrorists in concert with other police departments with whom they exchange security data concerning such fugitives.

Editor Proposes Debate on New Press Bill

NC0311153293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in English 28 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Muna al-Nahhas]

[Text] Press Syndicate chairman Ibrahim Nafi' has suggested a broad dialogue among the syndicate's 4,000 journalists to discuss a proposed law that would regulate the profession. Nafi' affirmed in a statement that all "views and proposals" will be considered by the syndicate's council and nothing will be approved that is unacceptable to the majority of journalists.

Nafi' issued the assurances after more than 1,000 syndicate members affixed their signatures to a statement rejecting the draft law submitted to the syndicate council by the chairman a week earlier. The statement also demanded the termination of the state of emergency and the lifting of all restrictions on press freedoms.

In the new draft law, journalists were categorised in three grades: A, B and C. C-grade journalists cannot move to grade B except after five years of work in the profession at the end of which their stories would be evaluated by a special committee. If the committee is not satisfied with their performance, they would be reassigned to an administrative post. The same regulation applies to B-grade journalists who will have to spend six years in this category before they are promoted to A-grade. Moreover, all applicants to syndicate membership must spend two to three years in training before they can be classified as "active" journalists.

Critics of the new draft argue that these provisions will be like a sword hanging over the heads of all journalists, who could find themselves reassigned, against their will, to administrative posts.

"For as long as 11 years, journalists will be threatened with losing their jobs if their writing is not in line with the general attitude of the evaluation committee," said Jalal 'Arif, a syndicate council members.

The draft states that the evaluation committee should be made up of leading journalists and university professors and be empowered to seek the assistance of professional experts.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, another council member, objected to the establishment of such a committee because, he said, it would undermine the authority of the syndicate council. "It is the responsibility of the council to evaluate the work of journalists. How could we leave this to a committee which may not be objective enough?" he said.

What the majority of journalists opposed and feared most was a provision in the draft allowing employees of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union (ERTU) to join the syndicate. "The ERTU has more than 20,000 employees who will obviously outnumber the 4,000 members of the press syndicate, easily forcing them into the sidelines," complained Majdi Muhanna, a council member and a writer for the opposition Al-Wafd newspaper.

Some council members were not prepared to discuss the new draft at all. "How can we discuss a law which was prepared behind our backs, although it is supposed to concern us and us alone?" said Mohamed Negm, a council member.

'Abd-al-Quddus said: "We are not ready to discuss a law that was drafted by the government. As it does not bear the names of those who drafted it, we are dead sure that it must have been cooked up by the National Democratic Party."

But Nafi' denied that the draft was authored by the government or the ruling NDP. He said it was the work of a special committee that included leading journalists and lawyers whom he commissioned to do the job.

"It would be illogical for the Press Syndicate chairman, who was elected for a third term with near unanimity, to advance a draft law that runs counter to the will of the majority of journalists or tampers with the independence, rights or jurisdiction of the syndicate," Nafi' said. He described the draft as an "initial text, one of several, which we may approve or disapprove at the council...I have no personal position for or against the draft...I may vote for it if I conclude that it realises the aspirations of journalists, and I may not support it if I see otherwise," he said.

Nafi' said he specifically objected to the inclusion of ERTU employees in the syndicate. "As for the rest of the proposals, we may reject them or modify them after a careful study," he said.

In a second statement, Nafi' called for a "serious and practical" debate on all proposals for a new press law, including the draft before the council as well as other proposals considered by the council in previous sessions.

A committee would be formed, he said, to "reconcile these proposals and come up with a unified text that would be the subject of a free debate by the council's members." The syndicate's former chairmen as well as representatives of the various political parties, professional and trade unions, research centers and journalism professors would be invited to express their views, he said.

Finally, the general assembly of the Press Syndicate would be summoned into a special session to debate and approve the law in its final form, Nafi' said.

As opposition to the draft mounted and "rejection" banners appeared at the syndicate, Nafi' issued a third statement, containing the assurances that the syndicate council would never act against the will of the majority.

"The syndicate council will examine all views and proposals...in order to preserve the independence of the profession and the rights of journalists," he said. Nafi' also spoke of "lifting all restrictions that obstruct the growth of journalism as a profession" and of further guarantees for the freedom of expression and publication.

"The council will never approve a draft that is unacceptable to the majority of members of the general assembly," Nafi' said. "The council will not hesitate to summon a special session of the assembly, when the views of journalists are crystallised around any proposals or amendments they wish to introduce to the laws governing the profession."

Salamah Ahmad Salamah, a council member, rejected the draft but blamed journalists for the current state of affairs. "For 23 years, no step was taken to amend the press syndicate law. Consequently, as long as we are passive, it is natural for outsiders to make decisions for us," he said.

Columnist Condemns Press Bill

NC0311091993 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 2

[Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah column: "Pulses"]

[Excerpts] The press bill is part of a whole and a link in a chain of provocations. It is part of the regime's consistent policy of tightening its control and subduing men, humiliating them, quashing their willpower, and sidestepping their role. The regime monopolizes power and insists on the Egyptian citizen remaining an onlooker and an outsider.

Logic says the regime should avoid inciting and provoking the people. Let it content itself with enjoying its power and influence, but it should avoid anything that might cause resentment or anxiety. The people will thus remain quiet and apathetic and the political equation will remain. On one side of the equation there is the regime's power and prestige and on the other side there is the silence of the dead.

But what is happening in Egypt is different. The people are patient and content. They don't complain or grumble. Too much suffering has numbed their sick and tired bodies. They no longer feel pain. They no longer complain of hunger, deprivation, hardship, lack of transport, high prices, or shortages of medicine.

Why don't those who are odious leave the patient people to swallow the poison calmly? Why don't they leave the people to lick their wounds and suppress their moans? The odious insist on opening the wounds and on pressing on the points of pain. [passage omitted]

Some 90 percent of the Egyptian media is in the hands of the regime. The regime's media are working relentlessly to mislead the public and brainwash the citizens and present them with that which is bitter as sweet. A quick glance at newspaper articles and at the officials' statements and remarks is enough. They are full of lies and falsehoods. If this happened in a democratic country, the accountability would be great. [passage omitted]

The nagging question is: Why this ferocious onslaught on the press and newsmen? Why did the regime invent this hated bill? Who thought of it and prepared it? Everybody has washed their hands of it. Is it an illegitimate child intended to be born fatherless? Or is it the work of demons or ghosts? [passage omitted]

Why muzzle the press and newsmen? Why fill the Press Association with hundreds of thousands of radio and television employees? Why turn the association into a court of inquisition? Why does the journalist live in fear that he will become an administrative employee?

Some have said that a new press law will not be issued unless the newsmen approve it. These are frightening statements, because they are the same statements we read before the professional associations law was issued. That law was eventually issued despite opposition by all the professional associations' members. This is the method of administering poison in doses. A bill is announced first. Then, things calm down after reassuring statements are made. Suddenly, a respected member of the People's Assembly submits the bill. The mechanism of evil moves and the bill is approved within hours.

It is better for the country and the regime to leave a little freedom and democracy as a breather. Let some opponents succeed. There will be no eruption or earthquake.

The great danger lies in closing every window and tightening government control. All this leads to secret and illegitimate channels.

Mauritania

'Arafat Assesses Results of Visit as 'Positive'

AB0411222893 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat visited the country for a few hours on 3 November. He had a private session with President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, and another session including the two delegations. Before leaving the country, 'Arafat described his visit as a fraternal one, and stressed that the discussions had been positive. He said he briefed the head of state on developments in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations at all levels, as well the reasons for the suspension of the Taba negotiations, because the Palestinian side is demanding a strict implementation of the Washington accord. 'Arafat also stated that he briefed the head of state on Palestinian diplomatic action on the Arabic, Islamic, and international levels.

After reiterating President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya's support, 'Arafat expressed thanks for the fraternal and constructive position taken by our foreign affairs and cooperation minister at the last Arab League ministerial meeting. According to Mr. 'Arafat, this position had a positive effect on decisions taken at the meeting. He said the action embarked upon by the Palestinians is important and deserves support from the Arabic, Islamic, and international communities. Furthermore, Mr. 'Arafat spoke to the head of state about the difficult situation the Palestinians are currently facing. He said the Palestinians are fighting to regain their basic rights. [passage omitted]

RDU Party Rejoins Presidential Majority

AB0511105893 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Communique issued by the Rally for Democracy and Unity on 3 November; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Rally for Democracy and Unity [RDU] Political Bureau, which met on 3 November, recalls the party's constant ideal and commitment to change in stability as the only way—and we are happy to note that this has been the case—of safeguarding social peace and serenity in the country. In spite of the party's withdrawal from the presidential majority group for obvious reasons, RDU's action has continued to be along identical lines, namely the rejection of disorder and threat to social peace in the country, and the rejection of all that can adversely affect the country's unity, its good name, and its [words indistinct] fundamental interests.

After thorough analysis of the current situation in the country, the political bureau, anxious to consolidate the gains of the democratic process in accordance with the mandate it received from the last congress to work for political openness and following the positive contacts it has made with the presidential majority, wishes to announce our party's decision to rejoin the presidential majority.

As in the past, RDU's participation in political life will continue to be marked by its attachment to political pluralism and respect for individual and collective fundamental liberties. RDU will continue to work for the entrenchment of democracy and the establishment of a true democratic culture through serene and responsible dialogue with all the country's political forces.

Morocco

Opposition Parties Decline To Join Government

LD0411200793 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] In Morocco, it is now official: The opposition have declined to take part in the future government. Yesterday, the opposition handed a memorandum to one of the king's advisers. The king had given the opposition 24 hours to announce their final position. So, this has now been done: The Istiqlal, the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces], and the OADP [Organization for Democratic Popular Action] have thus announced that they will not take part in the next government.

Memorandum to King Published

LD0511140193 Rabat MAP in English 1335 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 05 (MAP)—The Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) and the Organization for a Democratic and Popular Action (OADP) made public this Friday the text of the memorandum they handed last Monday to King Hassan II and that is related to their stand comverning their participation in the coming government.

The memorandum that was published on the front page of the dailies of these parties underlines 'with great consideration' the fact that King Hassan II 'deems that the constitution is a perfectible implement that must be constantly reformed'. The memorandum also underlines the sovereign's expressed intention to 'make of the universal direct suffrage the only polling mode for the election of the members of the House of Representatives'.

The three parties voice their 'total support' to the sovereign's proposition concerning constitutional reforms, the memorandum says.

The Moroccan Constitution stipulates that two thirds of the parliament are elected at the universal direct suffrage and that the remaining third is elected at the indirect suffrage.

The three parties deem that 'the behavior of the governmental apparatus was contrary to the crystal clear instructions of h.m. the king regarding the sincerity and

transparency of the elections' and that this behavior 'has deeply disappointed the public opinion', the memorandum goes on adding that the parties insist that 'their political stands on the coming phases be conform to the provisions of the constitution which regulate the relationship between the legislative and executive powers and determine the forming of the government and its prerogatives.

'Sour concern lies in seeking the ways that are likely to consolidate the Kingdom's constitutional bases and sound democratic practices for the present and future of our country', the memorandum says adding that 'the government which is able to put Morocco on the track of change must be (...) responsible, strong, homogenous and marked by solidarity so that it can fully play its role in the exercise of its prerogatives'.

The leaders of the three parties were received Wednesday by King Hassan II who asked them to give a reply on their participation in the governmernt within 24 hours. According to press reports, the parties leaders handed their reply to adviser to the king Reda Guedira at a meeting Thursday morning.

Moroccan Delegation on Failure of Sahara Talks

LD0311173993 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] United Nations, 3 Nov MAP—The members of the Moroccan Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs called on Algeria to "stop using the Saharans as it did before under international conditions characterized with the world being divided into Eastern and Western blocs."

In a news conference held at the UN building following the failure of the meeting, which was held in New York, the delegations representing the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], called on Algeria "to open its borders and lower its rifles, even for an hour, to enable our kin and women, detained in Tindouf, to return to their country and so put a final end to the problem."

Within the context of the reasons for being chosen as members of the delegation, they added: "We are related to our Saharan brothers on the other side of the negotiations by family and tribal ties; we represent all the tribal affiliations and belong to various generations, among whom are the generation that participated in the liberation army; the generation of the colonial era and the generation of the post-colonial era."

They expressed their "huge amazement at the other side's refusal to sit at the same negotiating table on the pretext that some of us were from the other side." They wondered about the other side's reasons for considering the brothers who joined the homeland as good Saharans when they were there in Tindouf and as soon as they returned to Morocco in response to the royal call "the homeland is forgiving and compassionate" they suddenly became otherwise.

The members of the Consultative Council pointed out that they were carrying a message of peace and forgiveness and that they came with the same spirit which accompanied them to the Laayoune meeting for the sake of "meeting other Saharans representing the detained people at the Lahmada camps."

The members of the Consultative Council added: "We had come here to listen to their reply to the Moroccan monarch's call, and to investigate with them future prospects within the framework of the new constitution, which included a broad conception of the region notion."

The members of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs affirmed "their complete readiness to hold dialogues at any time and in any place." They pointed out that it was befitting those raising the issue of the availability or non-availability of flexibility for continuing the dialogue to put forward "to the others who were behind its stoppage for two reasons at least. The first reason was represented by their overlooking the agreement reached with the UN secretary general that stipulated in its seventh clause that neither of the two sides had the right to interfere in the formation of the other side, while the other reason was represented by their opposition to the dialogue, because they wanted to discuss in isolation an issue that was of interest to us all."

The members of the delegation affirmed that "nobody had the right to remove from another Saharan the right to speak about an issue that concerned the constituents of this Moroccan society, with all its tribal affiliations, and no member or part of any tribe, no matter at what level or geographical or political position he might be, could hold the monopoly in speaking for these tribes."

In reply to a question on the reason Morocco did not send a government representative to New York, a member of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs said that the matter had nothing to do with the individuals, but concerned the framework ... which the meeting was held. He pointed out that the Laayoune meeting was held with a delegation chosen by the Royal Consultative Council and the delegation that came to New York, in its turn, consisted of members of that council, hence the framework had never changed.

He added that as far as the individuals were concerned, there was no rule or basis whatsoever in international law or any law that would allow one side to protest against the formation of the other side. In this context there is the UN document, which is legally valid, for avoiding exactly such obstacles.

Furthermore, the members of the delegation wondered whether the individuals, who claimed to represent the people detained in Lahmada, had the constructive spirit and good will to ease the pains of those people and to put

a final end to that tragedy (?because of) the grave human situation prevailing in Tindouf camps.

The members of the delegation added: "This group, which claimed the right to represent and negotiate on behalf of our fathers, mothers, children, and women, really only wanted to reserve the status quo in order to get material concessions and the right to represent the so-called refugees at international level. Therefore, their main preoccupation was not to end this situation or to put an end to the suffering of those people whom they exploited particularly at the United Nations and the humanitarian organizations."

The members of the delegation underlined the fact that since the ratification of the peace plan by the UN Security Council, they had never noticed any tangible, positive, or flexible action toward peace by that group. The only things they noticed were obstructions and obstacles aimed at delaying the referendum.

Sudan

Oppositionists Reaffirm Separatist Line

PM0411125093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p 7

[Nizar Daw-al-Na'im report: "Ummah Party: Government Financed Separatists and Encouraged Tribal Conflict. Sudan: Mashar Supporters Demand Return of Children Garang Sent to Cuba"]

[Text] London—The United Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, led by Dr. Riek Mashar, has stressed that it raised with high-ranking UN officials in New York the issue of returning hundreds of Sudanese children from Cuba to their families. It stated that it had received a pledge from officials to work to return the children whom Colonel John Garang sent to Havana for training to wherever they want to go, except Sudan.

Aruk Tun Aruk [as transliterated], member of the movement's leadership, told AL-HAYAH yesterday that Mashar met with UN officials at the end of last week before heading for Britain, which he is currently visiting in the framework of a European tour aimed at explaining the aims of the movement breaking away from Garang, especially with regard to the demand for the right to self-determination for southern Sudan.

Aruk added that UN officials promised to make urgent contacts to return the children, who were sent from southern Sudan to Ethiopia and then moved from there to Havana to receive ideological and military training before the overthrow of former Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in May 1991.

Dr. Lam Akol, official in charge of external relations in the movement, has told AL-HAYAH that the United Movement's delegation to Atlanta was designed to "explain to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter our view of the issue of reunifying the movement and initiating negotiation with the Sudanese Government." He added that the negotiations which were supposed to be held between the two wings of the movement under Carter's sponsorship "were not held, because Garang declined to attend without convincing reasons."

Akol urged "Sudanese parties in north Sudan to clearly express their opinion of the demand of all political tendencies in the south and not to obstruct the will of the southerners, who are united in their demand for the establishment of their state."

Steve Back [as transliterated], spokesman for the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in London, yesterday accused one of the factions of the alliance which has broken away from Garang of launching attacks on his movement's positions despite Mashar's endorsement of a cease-fire between the two wings in the Washington talks. He pointed out that forces led by Commander William Niyun [as transliterated], the third man in Mashar's movement, attacked Garang's positions in the Kidepo area in Equatoria Province on the 28 October, "that is three days after Mashar complied with the cease-fire." He considered this "a commander's disobedience to his leader, and we are waiting to know the truth."

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the opposition Ummah Party, has expressed his surprise at "the big clamor aroused by the Sudanese Government" over the "Washington declaration" in which the two wings of the SPLM agreed to demand the right to self-determination for the inhabitants of southern Sudan, the al-Nubah mountains, and other areas. He said that the government signed agreements with Mashar's supporters in Frankfurt and Amsterdam in 1991 granting the group the right to conduct a referendum on the right to self-determination leading to separation, because it has been a deep-rooted orientation in the southern political movement since 1955.
Sudanese Government spent millions of pounds on this separatist line. He pointed out that Mashar had stressed that his disagreements with Garang are limited to three issues: First, Garang does not believe in democracy. Second, Garang marginalized southern intellectuals. Third, the existence of political disagreement over the aims, because Garang is seeking to achieve a unified Sudan, whereas Mashar is seeking separation. Mashar believes that the [National] Islamic Front, the Sudanese Communist party, the Ummah Party, and the [Democratic] Unionist Party are all the same and that they "persecute southerners and consider them second-class citizens." He believes that this is "a testimony for the Sudanese opposition which proves that it supported the forces advocating Sudan's unity, while the regime financed separatists, encouraged tribal conflict, and drew attention to the need for foreign intervention."

He pointed out that the Ummah Party's position "was expressed in [former Prime Minister] al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's peace initiative which tackled the religion question, the system of government, and set conditions for

any region of the country wishing to demand the right to self-determination, most importantly the approval of more than two-thirds of its inhabitants, because people cannot continue in a state of war forever."

On the [opposition] Democratic National Grouping's position on southerners' demand for self-determination, Nur-al-Da'im said that the SPLM has become a member of the grouping after it changed its orientations in the wake of the end of the Cold War and the Mengistu regime's downfall and accepted democracy and pluralism. And it has been pursuing a unionist line. He added that the grouping had not discussed this issue until the convening of the Washington conference on 21 October. Then it decided to "discuss the self-determination issue after it had become part of the Washington agreement, in addition to the issues set for its conference, whose working program had been defined before." He added: "We were surprised by the agreement to demand self-determination. And we hope that the Sudanese political movement will succeed in strengthening Sudan's unity, as happened after the country's independence."

Rebels Steal Food From UN Relief Train

EA0411194593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA)—A group of the rebels attacked [on] Tuesday [2 November] a relief train loaded with 1,500 tons of food from [the] U.N. WFP [World Food Program] between Ariath and Mabior stations at Wau Road, Bahr al-Ghazal state. [The] U.N. office in Khartoum issued a statement on Thursday saying that the attackers seized, under threat of arms, 85 bags of sorghum and 32 bags of legumes, in addition to 11 cartons of edible oil. The statement added that the rebels also seized own properties of workers of U.N. and Sudan Railway Corp. The statement pointed out that the train has been directed to stop in Ariath station. A protest note was sent to the rebel movement's office in Nairobi, Kenya to give guarantees of stopping attacks on trains in the future.

Ba'th Party Rejects Foreign Intervention

PM0411170493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Ba'th Party Tacitly Backs Government To Confront Threats of Intervention in South"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Sudanese Ba'th Party has tacitly emphasized its support for the government's position in rejecting foreign intervention in the south of the country. It urged all political and unionist forces to "work from their independent platforms to expose the aims and pretexts of foreign intervention in Sudan."

The party said in a statement issued yesterday that "the political crisis, famine, civil war, and human rights in Sudan are issues which concern national sovereignty. No one can tackle and resolve them except the Sudanese people with their parties, unions, and internal forces."

The statement condemned U.S. accusations of supporting terrorism leveled at the government, and the freezing of Sudan's membership of the IMF "although the government responded to IMF conditions."

Meanwhile, Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih yesterday, Tuesday, announced that Sudan believes that its right to the Hala'ib area "is indisputable." And that it will never abandon this area, which is situated on the Red Sea and which Egypt is claiming.

In his weekly meeting with Sudanese newspapers Abu-Salih stressed that "Sudan's right to the Hala'ib area is indisputable, and we are not going to abandon it, nor will anyone take this territory from us."

Al-Bashir Explains New Foreign Exchange Rules

EA0411164093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA)—General al-Bashir reiterated that the measures for controlling dealings with foreign currency which will be put into effect as of Saturday [6 November] [are] aimed at prohibiting speculation in foreign currency in a bid to transfer resources to achieve the objectives of the agricultural, industrial and commercial production and frequently [as received] abundancy of commodities. He affirmed that the government would not intervene in fixing hard currency prices, which will be fixed by the banks, and the import commodities prices will be fixed according to the banks' prices of hard currency.

Al-Bashir Leaves for PTA Meeting in Uganda

EA0411164793 Khartoum SUNA in English 1021 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA)—The president of the republic General 'Umar al-Bashir left today for Kampala on head of Sudan delegation for participation in the 12th session of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, to be held there Friday and Saturday. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Source on 'Right To Respond' to Iraqi Violations

NC0411200293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] A responsible Kuwaiti source has stated that work is continuing on the fence that Kuwait is setting up along its entire northern border with Iraq, adding that only 20 km remain before the first stage of the fence is completed.

In an exclusive statement to MENA's correspondent in Kuwait, the source noted that all the necessary steps have been taken to protect the workers building this fence from the provocative acts carried out against them by the Iraqi troops. He added that his country reserves the right to respond to these Iraqi violations of Kuwaiti territory, particularly since Kuwait now has all the means to safeguard its territory and those working in Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

U.S., South Korean Firms To Build Desalination Plant

NC0211200493 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 2 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia awarded a contract to build the biggest desalination plant in the world to U.S. and South Korean firms Tuesday [2 November], officials said here.

The U.S. firm Bechtel and the South Korean firm Korea Heavy Industries and Construction will build a plant with a daily capacity of 455 million litres in western Saudi Arabia, on the Red Sea.

"The desalination plant will be the biggest ever built in the world," said Saudi Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shaykh after the four-billion riyal (1.1 billion dollar) contract had been signed.

A 500-megawatt power station at the plant will supply water and electricity to the cities of Jeddah, Mecca and al-Ta'if.

The plant, due to be finished in 1997, will raise the daily supply of drinking water in Saudi Arabia to some 3.6 billion litres (0.9 billion gallons).

Saudi Arabia has more desalination plants than any other country in the world, with 25 producing 2.6 billion litres (0.7 billion gallons) of water per day.

The Gulf kingdoms, including Saudi Arabia, obtain more than 70 percent of their water supplies from the 45 desalination plants on the shores of the Gulf and the Red Sea.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Saudi GCC Summit Invitation

JN0411153493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from his brother King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, containing an invitation to his highness the president to attend the 14th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] scheduled to be held in Riyadh on 20 December.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received the message this morning when he received Saudi Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud.

The Emirates news agency reported that His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan hoped that the upcoming GCC summit will realize the ambitions of the GCC states as well as the aspirations of their peoples for further progress and prosperity. He also hoped that the summit will contribute to the promotion of the interests of the peoples of the region and to their security and stability. He noted that this requires cooperation in various spheres and on all levels.

Yemen

Ministry Denies Knowledge of Citizens Killed in Jordan

PM0411161093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Sanaa Casts Doubt on Nationality of Two Yemenis Killed in Jordan Clash"]

[Excerpts] Amman, Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Yemen yesterday denied any knowledge of the two armed Yemenis killed in a clash with the Jordanian Army led by a Jordanian who was also killed in the incident.

While Yemeni Foreign Ministry declared it had no knowledge of the incident and the two Yemenis, Shaykh 'Ali 'Abdallah Abu-Luhum, Jordanian [as published] ambassador in Amman, said that Jordanian authorities had told him nothing about the incident or the two Yemenis in question. He cast doubt on the possibility of their being Yemenis. But Jordanian officials yesterday said that the three gunmen killed in the clash last week were supporters of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is currently detained in the United States. Officials emphasized that they had links with extremist groups abroad, and that there had been a conspiracy aimed against Jordan and its interests. [passage omitted]

The Yemeni ambassador told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he has not received any official information on the incident and that he only knows what he has read in the press, namely that two men holding Yemeni nationality participated in the clash in question. He added that there is a "large Yemeni community in Jordan, and I do not know whether these two Yemenis are from the people living here in Jordan or from Yemen, as I have not received any official information. So I have not hastened to ask."

A source at the Yemeni Embassy in Amman confirmed what the ambassador said, saying: We have no information, nor have we received any bodies. If the two people in question are really Yemenis, their bodies are still with the competent Jordanian authorities. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Receives Eritrean Interior Minister, Message

JN0411165293 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] In Aden this afternoon, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received Eritrean Interior Minister brother Ali Sayyid Abdallah, who conveyed to him a written message from his brother Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki on bilateral relations and ways to consolidate and promote them. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid asked him to convey his greetings to brother Isayas Afewerki, wishing him continuous health and happiness and the fraternal Eritrean people progress and success.

The meeting was attended by Hassan 'Ali Hasan, deputy interior minister, and 'Uthman Kamarani, Aden governorate commissioner. On the Eritrean side, the meeting was attended by Housing Minister Michael Jabr and Information Minister Ahmad Tahir Badiri [Eritrean names and titles as heard].

Organization Seeks Details on Detained Journalists

PM0411130693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p2

[Unattributed report: "Humanitarian Organization Opens File of Missing Politicians in Yemen"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The "Article 19" Organization, concerned with issues of freedom of opinion, has sent a letter to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asking him to provide information about four journalists detained since the 13 January 1986 incidents. Their relatives have heard nothing for years. The letter focused on the following four journalists:

1. Isma'il al-Shibani, chief editor of AL-HIKMAH AL-YAMANIYAH and AL-THAQAFAH AL-JADIDAH magazines.

2. Ahmad Salim Muhammad, director of the "14 OCTOBER" newspaper, official in charge of information at the prime minister's office, and director general of al-Hamdani Printing and Publication House.

3. Zaki Barakat, chief editor of the newspaper AL-THAWRI and a famous poet.

4. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Bashar, political and information adviser to [former] President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

The letter said that "according to available information, these four people are held in a secret detention camp and their relatives have been unable to visit them despite repeated requests." The organization expressed concern about torture and solitary confinement of these journalists.

The organization reminded the Yemeni president that "under international law, it was the duty of his country to disclose the circumstances of the detention of the four journalists. It asked him to report their condition officially, give the legal grounds for their detention, offer assurances that they are treated humanely, tell their families of their whereabouts, and allow them to contact independent lawyers and doctors."

It is worth noting that the file of missing persons since the 13 January incidents is believed to include hundreds of names. These incidents, resulting from conflicts between two Socialist Party [YSP] wings at the time, claimed over 10,000 victims.

Although there have been many attempts to shelve it, the file has not been closed yet.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is expected to use the issue of missing persons and the political detainees in the former South Yemen to put pressure on the YSP, its partner in the ruling coalition, as part of the ongoing maneuvers in the current crisis between the YSP and the General People's Congress (the president's party).

The YSP, however, is making similar charges against the northern parties and tribes. Some sources say that certain parties are holding Yemeni citizens "in special prisons."

'Sources' Name New Chemical Weapons Storage Area

NC0411173993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Our sources have cited sources in the ranks of the tyrant Saddam's Armed Forces who said that his regime recently moved the chemical weapons it had previously placed in the marshlands to another area.

The sources added that the weapons were moved at night in dozens of well-covered military trucks.

The sources said that despite the extreme secrecy surrounding the transfer of these weapons and their new locations, information was leaked that indicates that the new hiding place is the desert area in the triangle formed by the juncture of al-Diwaniyah [al-Qadisiyah], al-'Amarah [Maysan], and al-Kut [Wasit] Governorates.

It is worth noting that al-Basrah marshlands, particularly (Hawr Abu-Jurji), were recently the targets of extensive chemical attacks that killed or wounded thousands of the regime's servicemen and innocent citizens.

Resistance Claims Murder of Security Official

NC0411182793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Islamic resistance forces carried out an operation against a criminal agent of the tyrant regime a few days ago. The criminal, who is called Wathban, was the official in charge of the security department in the al-Basha'ir area in al-Nasiriyah Governorate.

Our sources said that the resistance forces exterminated the criminal, seized his personal weapon, and confiscated documents containing security reports addressed to the regime on the activities of the citizens in the area.

It is worth mentioning that the criminal had been involved in relaying information to the security bodies and participating in the torture of citizens.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Iraqi Expatriate Workers

JN0411200893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, this evening received Iraqi expatriate health and medical workers who reside in Germany and other Western states.

During the meeting, 'Aziz hailed the efforts of the noble sons of Iraq in terms of supporting their beloved country and working to break the unjust embargo imposed on it. He also expressed appreciation for their extension of aid, medicine, and other medical materials in order to alleviate the human suffering resulting from the aggressors' embargo.

Dr. 'Aziz al-Qazzaz, deputy head of the second expatriates conference, voiced constant readiness to support Iraq, particularly under the current difficult circumstances. Dr. Tariq al-'Ani, head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, attended the meeting.

Ramadan Meets Visiting Mauritanian Delegation

JN0411183393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has lauded the role of the national and pan-Arab organizations in continuing the links among Arab citizens, and their concern for protecting Arab citizens from colonialist intentions and schemes designed to undermine the Arab nation's unity.

During a meeting today with a delegation from the Mauritanian Labor and National Unity Party, led by its Secretary General (Ali Bouhat Ould Ibrahim), Ramadan asserted that the Arab parties should take into account the common denominators of interest to the nation. He emphasized that many people in the world who supported the Western states in their aggression on Iraq have begun to understand the dimensions of this aggression, of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, and of its continuation. They also began to understand that all that is said about international legitimacy—which was exploited to impose this embargo—is doubted by the good ones in the world.

(Ibrahim) reiterated the Mauritanian people's solidarity with both the Iraqi people and their Arab leader President mujahid Saddam Husayn in his heroic confrontation of the colonialist and imperialist schemes, which not only target Iraq but also the entire Arab homeland.

He hailed the reconstruction in Iraq and the Iraqis' resolve to reconstruct what was destroyed by the Western war machine in a record time not taken into account by the Zionist and colonialist circles.

Peres, Husayn Met 'This Week' To Discuss Peace

TA0511060493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met this week with Jordan's King Husayn. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic affairs correspondent says the two men discussed ways to advance the peace process between Israel and Jordan. Their emphasis was on economic matters.

Diplomatic sources in Israel say the two countries would benefit greatly from a public meeting between the Jordanian monarch and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin or Foreign Minister Peres, but in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, they say the American Administration does not anticipate a breakthrough unless there is progress first in the talks between Israel and Syria.

There are rumors in Washington that the administration is trying to invite Jordan's King Husayn for a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin when Rabin meets President Bill Clinton at the White House next Friday [12 November]. Israeli sources in Washington refused to react to the rumors and said they knew nothing of any American attempts to initiate such a meeting.

Peres-Husayn Meeting Detailed

TA0511065993

[Editorial Report] Israel's five major Hebrew-language newspapers on 5 November carry front-page reports saying that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met secretly with Jordan's King Husayn during the night of 2-3 November. The papers note that Peres was alluding to this meeting when he said in an Israel Television interview on 3 November that "the day when additional political developments will take place is not far off."

Shim'on Schiffer in Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT on pages 1 and 10 reports that the Peres-Husayn meeting took place in the Gulf of Aqaba, while Moti Bassok in Tel Aviv DAVAR on page 1 says it might have taken place "in Israel or on the border between the two states." Schiffer says that Husayn and Peres "discussed the possibilities of drafting a peace accord between the two countries and exchanged drafts of agreements in many varied fields of cooperation between Jordan and Israel." Peres was accompanied by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and Avi Gil, the head of the minister's bureau.

"In the meeting, King Husayn expressed his concern about Palestinian demands to assume control of the border crossings at the Jordan River bridges. Peres reassured Husayn and promised that in the negotiations with the Palestinians, Israel will insist that it will have exclusive responsibility for the crossings and the land border between Israel and Jordan." .

Schiffer reports that it was decided in the meeting that the two sides "would try to arrange a tripartite summit meeting late next week in Washington between President Clinton, Prime Minister Rabin, and King Husayn." Rabin will be in Washington next week and will meet with President Clinton on 12 November.

Alon Pinkus and Avino'am Bar-Yosef on pages 1 and 2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV cite "authoritative sources" as having said that in the meeting, which lasted three hours, Peres and Husayn "reached agreement on the components of the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan." They write, however, that despite the agreement, "Jerusalem doubts the king can sign the accord before progress is made in the peace talks with Syria." The report adds that the Peres-Husayn meeting "is part of the new impetus in the peace process, which includes secret contacts with Saudi officials." It says that the two leaders also discussed "border modifications, pumping water from the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers, and future relations between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian entity."

Amnon Barzilay in Tel Aviv HADASHOT on pages 1 and 3 writes that "Israel and Jordan are about to sign an economic cooperation agreement." Barzilay says the wording of the agreement was completed in a meeting between Peres and either King Husayn or Crown Prince Hasan. "Early in the week, it looked like the agreement could be signed by today, and that was what Peres was hinting at when he referred to the importance of 3 November, but now it is known that the signing will be held up for several days. Political sources said yesterday that despite the importance of the accord, it is still not a peace agreement between the two states."

Barzilay writes that Israeli-Jordanian joint interests "led Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Peres to the conclusion that the talks with Jordan should be given preference over those with Syria." He says swift progress in the secret talks became possible after Peres "promised Prince Hasan that Israel would use its international connections to help Jordan extricate itself from its economic crisis and the foreign debt burdening it."

Hemi Shalev on pages A1 and A10 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ says "political sources believe that following next Monday's elections in Jordan, King Husayn will be willing to make public his contacts with Israeli leaders and hold the first public meeting with Peres or Prime Minister Rabin and sign agreements that will lead to the signing of a comprehensive peace accord between Israel and Jordan."

'Sources' Report Contacts With Syria 'Ongoing'

TA0511083293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal and Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will remain on the rim of the Golan Heights plateau and in return will hand over to Syria, in addition to the Golan Heights, several areas where sovereignty has been disputed and which were demilitarized prior to 1967: Baniyas, al-Hammah, and the village of al-Ghajar. Damascus and Jerusalem recently agreed on this, according to a senior

political source who has held senior military and state positions and who recently met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The senior source said that in a meeting he held with Rabin, the prime minister told him that two weeks ago, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad accepted an Israeli demand to define the substance of the peace accord as he sees it. Damascus informed Jerusalem that it is ready for full peace, including open borders and an exchange of embassies, in return for a withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights, according to the source.

The source also said that Rabin failed to endorse the Syrian proposal because he was afraid the Israeli public is not prepared to accept it. In the wake of further contacts, in which American elements were also apparently involved, Damascus proposed exchanging territory. This would permit the IDF to keep a strip of land to ward off a direct threat to the Jordan Valley settlements.

In the source's view, Rabin has decided to accept the proposal, and it is possible that an agreement on the arrangement has also been initialed. The source added that he believes a summit meeting will soon be held between Foreign Ministers Shim'on Peres and Faruq al-Shar'. In his view, this is what Peres was referring to when, in an Israel Television interview on Wednesday [3 November], he hinted at far-reaching political developments and said that "the day when additional developments will take place is not far off."

Hemi Shalev adds: The Prime Minister's Office reacted last night by saying that a new policy has been set of no longer reacting to reports on the peace process. A statement by the prime minister's bureau said that "there has been a spate of reports recently about the peace process, including various speculations. The fact that the Prime Minister's Office does not react hourly to the flood of reports and speculations does not mean the HA'ARETZ report is true."

Nevertheless, sources in the Prime Minister's Office denied the report and said it was unfounded. On the other hand, various political sources confirmed elements of the report and said "it is very likely" that the entire report is correct. The sources confirmed that since early August, elements in the Syrian leadership have talked about establishing diplomatic relations with Israel when the IDF completes its withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The sources confirmed that they also heard, although indirectly, about the possibility that Syria would be prepared to study proposals on an exchange of territory.

In any event, various sources, including Minister Hayim Ramon, confirmed last night that Israel and Syria are maintaining ongoing contacts via the United States. Political sources said that Israeli academics recently held "semi-official" contacts with Syrian counterparts.

'Hiatus' in Contacts With Syria Not To Last

TA0511121193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 93 p A1

[Report from Washington by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpt] The time-out in the contacts between Syria and Israel or, in other words, the hiatus between signing the agreement with the PLO and launching substantive talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will not last more than three or four months. This is the gist of an understanding reached between the United States and Israel. The understanding is based on al-Asad's promise that he will not undermine the agreement between the PLO and Israel and that, for the time being, he will continue to wait for Rabin.

Syria and the United States have also reached an understanding following meetings between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar and U.S. officials in Washington and between Dennis Ross, Martin Indyk, and President al-Asad in Damascus. In the wake of these talks, al-Shar' was convinced that there was no U.S.-Israeli "plot" to isolate Syria by giving priority to the agreement with the PLO and that Washington had been truly surprised by the Oslo agreement. [passage omitted]

Likud Member Cancels Plans To Visit 'Arafat

TA0511114193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Likud Central Committee member Eli Levi has canceled his scheduled trip to Tunis to meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Levi made the decision after consulting with Knesset Member David Levi. Eli Levi said he changed his mind about going to Tunis after receiving an ultimatum that if he made the trip he would be thrown out of the Likud.

Rabin Asks EC Official To Increase Investments

TA0511113293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin conferred today with the EC official in charge of relations with Israel. Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the prime minister asked in the meeting that the EC increase its investments and economic involvement in Israel and give practical expression to its support for the government's peace moves. The prime minister also asked the official to relay Israel's request to update the bilateral trade agreement to the EC institutions.

The EC will participate in the funding of energy-related projects in the region, including the Dead Sea-Mediterranean Sea canal, desalination of sea water, a solar power station, and the exploitation of oil shale, the EC official in charge of energy issues told Minister Moshe Shahal last night in a conference in Athens. Our

correspondent Shulamit Schmerling points out that the EC had to date refrained from funding such projects.

Bank Le'umi Signs Agreement With Moroccan Bank

TA0411111593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 4 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by Beni Baraq]

[Text] Bank Le'umi will be the first Israeli bank to have business ties with Morocco. An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday by Bank Le'umi and Banque Commerciale du Maroc, one of Morocco's largest banks and its largest privately owned one.

In the wake of the agreement, the two banks will have direct ties which will enable Israeli and Moroccan businessmen to do business in both countries.

Bank Le'umi officials said the Moroccan bank would underwrite guarantees to local businessmen to make purchases in Israel. The Moroccans are particularly interested in buying high-tech Israeli products.

The agreement was signed yesterday at Bank Le'umi's Tel Aviv offices. In addition to the directors of both banks, the signing ceremony was attended by the members of the Moroccan economic delegation currently visiting Israel.

Turkish Tourism Office Opens in Tel Aviv

TA0411095793 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 0800 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over still of Israeli map]

[Text] A Turkish Tourism Office has opened in Tel Aviv, the capital of Israel [as heard]. Tourism Minister Abdulkadir Ates, currently in Israel, inaugurated the Turkish Tourism Office within the framework of Turkish Week in Tel Aviv.

In addition to the posters on display, there were also video presentations promoting Turkey at the opening. Prior to the opening, Ates met with the Israeli ministers of industry and trade, finance, and economics and planning, as well as with the parliament speaker.

Agreement Reached on Settling Gaza Power Debt

TA0511060793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] An agreement has been reached on resolving the debt owed by the city of Gaza to the Israel Electric Corporation [IEC]. It was reached in Athens between Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, IEC Managing Director Moshe Katz, and Gaza Mayor Zakariya Makki. They were all attending an energy conference sponsored by the EC. Gaza owes the IEC 30 million shekels, and the company has been unable to collect the debt.

Elections Won on Likud's 'Organizational Prowess'

TA0411143993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 93 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Tal: "The Resurrection of the Likud"]

[Text] The quote of the week came from the town of Bet Shemesh, the day of the municipal elections. Daniyel Vaknin, the Likud's candidate for mayor who defeated Shalom Fadida (one of Labor's strongest men), sent his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Whatever for? For declaring that the municipal elections would be a test of the public support for the government's policy as reflected in the agreement of principles with the PLO. His declaration allowed the people to show what they really think about this policy, Vaknin said, and ensured the Likud's victory in Bet Shemesh.

Rabin concocted this political mess before the municipal elections, and he stuck with it even after the results began coming in. In fact, it cannot be ascertained how much weight "the political consideration" carried in the vote of thousands of people. In some places it may have been taken it into account, whereas in others not at all. Nevertheless, one should differentiate between the role political considerations played in the decision of the voters and the subsequent interpretation of the results.

Foreign observers will probably conclude that the results, particularly in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, reflect the misgivings of a vast section of the population about the government's conciliatory policy toward the PLO (Rabin, for his own reasons, will not be too sorry about such a conclusion). Although this is a shallow conclusion, Labor cannot argue—especially in view of the prime minister's declaration—that its peace policy received the sweeping support of the public. On the other hand, the Likud can at least argue that it remains a legitimate and popular element in the eyes of the public and that its representatives throughout the country received the people's confidence despite its firm opposition to the agreement of principles which polls claimed enjoyed the support of a majority.

The main lesson to be learned from the elections is that the news that the Likud is dead or dying was premature. The Likud evinced organizational prowess and managed to run dozens of candidates who appealed to the citizens, both old-timers and immigrants, in dozens of locations. Judging by the results, the Likud emerged from the battle with outstanding achievements. The winner was not the same old Likud, however, and neither Binyamin Netanyahu nor the Likud's official leadership may attribute these achievements to themselves.

The careers of the main winners, Ehud Olmert and Roni Milo, took a nonconventional course, from national to local politics, which only goes to illustrate the importance of dealing with the citizen's everyday affairs. They ran at the head of multiparty factions founded on

consensus over local affairs. However, the main innovation as well as a key element of their victory, is that both represent a moderate version of the Likud politician that differs from the standard image of the party.

This change was particularly evident in Tel Aviv. The lesson to be learned from it is that the Likud can get to a position of power if it recognizes the need to attract mainstream voters. Admittedly, this is easier on the local level, but with a little bit of imagination and audacity it can also be done on the national level. Olmert won in Jerusalem thanks to a deal with the ultra-Orthodox factions, but even in Jerusalem there must have been voters—who are neither ultra-Orthodox nor Likud followers—who stomached Olmert but would not have been able to stomach Likud stalwarts such as Ari'el Sharon, Beni Begin, or 'Uzi Landau.

Olmert and Milo may prove that there is room for a new version of the Likud, for a more middle-of-the-road, pragmatic, flexible, and realistic party which may one day appear in the national arena. This largely depends on how they will run the affairs of their cities in the near future. They must prove to their non-religious and non-nationalist voters that their election was not a mistake, and that they and the likes of them may merit the support of the people in the future.

Despite the political undertones in the election campaign, the bottom line is that in most local authorities the struggle was over the quality of urban management, where the record of the incumbents and the candidates play a decisive role. One person got away from the voter's verdict: After 19 years, Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat quit his job leaving behind a city plagued with unsolved problems and an astonishing deficit of 1 billion shekels. It is a sad case of poetic injustice: Teddy Kollek, who should have retired while he was on top, was defeated in the elections. On the other hand, Lahat, who deserved to be voted out of office, is retiring at the end of his term.

Two Wounded in 3 Nov Incidents in Territories

TA0411055993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] In the territories last night, a Gaza resident was seriously wounded and his three-year-old son lightly hurt when IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers opened fire on his car. Security sources report that when the car ran into an Army jeep, the soldiers feared it was part of a terrorist car-bomb attack. Gaza residents, who claim to have witnessed the incident, say the car did not ram the jeep but rather drove alongside of it and, after turning into an alley, was fired upon by soldiers. The IDF is investigating.

Near the village of Baytuniya, close to Ramallah, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Egged bus. There were no injuries, and no damage was caused.

Outside the al-Am'ari refugee camp in Ramallah, a stone-throwing battle took place last night between residents and Jewish settlers. There were no reports of injuries or damage. Dozens of settlers were demonstrating on the road outside the camp in protest against the recent rash of stone throwing at Israeli cars in the area.

The new attorney general, Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir, has decided not to open up criminal charges against those who have called for IDF soldiers to refuse orders to evacuate or dismantle settlements. In a letter to Knesset Member Hagay Merom, who called for those behind the call to be put on trial, Ben-Ya'ir said at this stage it was enough to watch developments carefully and monitor the actions of the groups behind the declaration.

Muslim Brotherhood Denies Sponsoring Candidates

JN0411180693 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, 4 Nov (PETRA)—The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued a press statement that was distributed to various media and press institutions. In its statement, the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan announced it did not nominate anyone on its behalf or under its name for the upcoming Parliamentary elections. The Muslim Brotherhood also announced that it does not sponsor any candidate who declares his candidacy on its behalf or under its name.

In another development, a responsible source in the Muslim Brotherhood told the Jordanian News Agency that this stand is a response to an announcement by a candidate in Irbid constituency that he is the Brotherhood's nominee.

The source added: We asked members of the Brotherhood who want to run for elections and members of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] to coordinate with the IAF and run for elections within its lists.

'Feeble' Election Campaign Analyzed

JN0411111493 Amman THE STAR in English 4-10 Nov 93 p 4

[By Dr. Marwan al-Asmar, managing editor of THE STAR]

[Text] As we approach the 8 November elections, we should stop to ponder on last month's campaigning—a month that has been characterized by election banners and a bombardment of political advertising by prospective candidates hoping to become our next representatives in the Lower House of Parliament.

During the campaign a great number of candidates have come on the public scene for the first time. Saved from obscurity we have come to know them only through the banners they have hung on walls, roundabouts and between telephone poles. Slick catch phrases and abstract idioms painted in red, black and green on cheap garment have come to symbolize this year's elections.

But despite this and the controversy that swept the country earlier about holding the elections on time, the campaign itself has been described by many as a disappointment: muted and bordering on the colorless. The fervor and dynamism that dominated the 1989 elections were hardly in evidence in this campaign despite the fact that the political environment today is more open. Jordan in 1993 is a much more mature society, characterized by a growing democratic, and hence political, culture that is the pride of the region. The legalization of political parties and the easing of most restrictions on the press should have promised to be the most dynamic campaign yet witnessed in the political history of Jordan.

But unfortunately this was not to happen. A good size electorate, about 1.5 million, is a reasonable figure for a country that has a population of nearly four million. But once the election campaign started there was no lustre, no feeling of energy, although about 549 candidates registered to run for the elections.

With political parties participating for the first time, one would have thought that most candidates would have belonged to political parties, but not so. It is a dismal fact that political parties have managed to field about 100 candidates throughout the country with over a third of these belonging to the Islamic Action Front.

Out of the 20 legalized political parties, only 10 officially put up candidates. New parties like al-'Ahd, al-Mustaqbal, the Islamic Democratic Movement, the Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian People Democratic Party (hashd)—the last two had managed to form a last-minute-coalition—scraped no more than a handful of candidates each.

These parties, who have prepared themselves for the elections in recent months, suddenly realized that the democratic game was not an easy one; when it came to the crunch, it requires organization, "monolithic" structure and money—something a large number of parties lacked. Most parties, realistic about their slim chances, bowed to the inevitable, gracefully accepted their limitations and did not register once the election campaign got underway, despite the rhetoric they dished out to the unassuming public.

But the decision of these parties not to participate, ironical as it may seem, proves that they are no more than private clubs whose members still lack the confidence, tools and procedures to address the public and obtain their support. In other words they are not as yet mass political parties as those that exist elsewhere.

Elections are the most important ritual in the democratic tradition and to throw this right away, for whatever reason, must be seen as a serious setback for Jordanian democracy and pluralism. The failure of these parties to present themselves at the polls left the door open to "independent" and tribal candidates, who are expected to dominate the next Lower House and divide it into clusters of singular, self-serving deputies rather than blocs who have the interest of the nation in mind.

But lack of participation by such parties is not the only reason for the campaign's feeble performance. The new world system of unipolarity, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the new world order, the weakening of the new regional order brought about by the Gulf War and the breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli peace process have created new inhibitions on the internal scene.

This campaign has been eclipsed by regional developments that have created a great deal of internal political uncertainty and anguish at home.

People in Jordan have still not yet taken in what has happened on the PLO-Israeli level. They have yet to accept and come to grips with the effects of the Gaza-Jericho accord and its implications for them. There are questions being raised about the special Jordanian- Palestinian relationship, about population, refugees, returnees and the new Palestinian entity's relationship to Jordan. Questions have been raised concerning the future coexistence of Jordanians and Palestinians with each other—something which His Majesty King Husayn said he will not allow to be raised in a way that may affect national unity in these potentially explosive times.

Political parties did nothing to dampen fears but instead became embroiled in the commotion that resulted from those fears. Because of the rapidity of events on the peace process and the sterility of political debate and the splits and potential splits each party have had, the political parties have not considered the implications of Gaza-Jericho for Jordan; and they were unable to formulate their own distinct policies and deliver them as election platforms.

The Government itself, fearful of these developments, decided to dampen the election fever. Up until only a few days ago, it banned public meetings and election rallies—a forum for the vital elements of debate that go on in elections. The government's ban, although calculated to reduce any possible unrest, may have done the people and the elections a great disservice and deprived the people of meeting their candidates in a free and open atmosphere of debate precisely at a time when the nation faces difficult tasks ahead.

It would have been far better to allow the elections to be conducted in a manner where "Big Brother" was not watching and to get the people to rally behind legitimate national issues that must be debated in the next Parliament.

Tribes, Parties Seen Weakened by Election Law

JN0411095493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4-5 Nov 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—When the one-person, one-vote formula was introduced into Jordan's electoral process in August, political analysts began to predict that tribal affiliations would largely determine the outcome of the Nov. 8 elections. But only several days before polling day, an increasing number of observers feel that the new law has fragmented more families than it united on the campaign trail.

The new electoral formula has not only weakened political parties by preventing the kind of alliances that would have been available to them as an option under the old bloc-voting system, these observers say. The tribes and smaller families have suffered as a result." [no opening quotation marks as published]

"in every clan or tribe, or even family, you have at least four political persuasions, a leftist or pan-Arabist, an Islamist, a right-wing and a neutral independent," a member of the large al-'Adwan tribe says.

"As a result of these inner tribal affiliations, votes are likely to be split not once but twice at least. It is thus not uncommon for a leftist member of the family to vote for someone other than his cousin, who is running for the election but who nevertheless does not share this ideological or political point of view."

When the 1986 Election Law came under review by the first government of al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir in 1989, the concept of the one-person, one-vote formula was rejected as a possible amendment because it could generate tribal squabbles and splinter the traditional Jordanian concept of community leadership.

But "the new voting formula has made it possible for both parties and tribes to be split over the candidacy of one politician or tribal representative," according to Yasin al-Tarawinah, a pan-Arab candidate in al-Karak.

"Those who pushed for the new law did not want community representation in Parliament but a grouping of individuals who speak with 80 different voices," he says.

But not everyone agrees with Mr. al-Tarawinah's analysis.

"The campaigns are community oriented but not necessarily tribal," says Mustafa Hamarinah, director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

The on-going elections are "parochial" in that they do not concern themselves with national issues, preferring to concentrate on insular local and regional issues, he says.

"The issues and campaigns may be truly provincial, but to say there is consensus on certain candidates on a tribal base is an exaggeration."

A son of a candidate from al-Ramtha agrees. "You will have a split tribal vote even in the most cohesive regions," he says.

No less than 18 candidates are vying for the three Muslim seats allocated to the al-Ramtha and Bani Kananah district.

A few clans, such as the 'Ubaydats in Bani Kananah, the al-Batayinahs in Irbid and the al-Majalis in al-Karak, held tribal primaries and thus decided who their tribal candidates would be. In almost every case, at least one other member of the clan fielded himself as an independent.

With voting members of the 'Ubaydat clan being estimated at 10,000 and the al-Majalis at 6,500, even relatively minor splits could create a threat to the tribal candidates, some observers believe.

Qasim 'Ubaydat, who was his clan's successful candidate during the 1989 elections, is now challenging his official tribes' candidate, after the former deputy failed to win his family's primaries this time. While Bani Kananah

observers expect him to take about one-fifth of the 'Ubaydat votes, they do not believe that he would seriously put the election of the official 'Ubaydat candidate into jeopardy.

However, not all clans can count on such outcomes due to the sheer number of their voters.

Three members of the al-Malkawi clan are running for a seat also in the al-Ramtha and Bani Kananah district, and local observers believe their votes will be so split that none of them will win. In the al-Kurah and Northern Bedouin districts, three members of the al-Shuraydah clan, two brothers and their uncle are competing, leaving family voters angry and threatening to boycott the elections altogether.

"Many members of the al-Shuraydahs are angry because the issue of three candidates so closely related will force them to take sides they don't want to take—so many are likely to abstain," a member of the al-Shuraydah clan who lives in Amman says.

In Irbid, on the other hand, former Minister of Health 'Arif al-Batayinah and former Minister of Youth Salih Irshaydat are said to have good chances of success because there is "clan consensus" on their candidacy.

But such consensus appears to be the exception rather than the rule.

In the al-Balqa' district seven members of the large al-'Abbadi clan are contesting the same seat, although they belong to different political persuasions. Na'il Masalihah Zaydan (al-'Abbadi) is one of four members of the Islamic Action Front running for one of six seats allocated for Muslims.

Meanwhile, his relative, Mustafa Shuraykat (al-'Abbadi), is running as a candidate for the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, an offshoot of the Jordanian Communist Party in the same governorate.

This will no doubt split their tribe's vote and weaken all the candidates' chances.

Local observers in almost all districts believe that many political parties including the IAF and the leftist parties looked for the strength of a candidate's tribal backing before choosing him (or her) as their candidate. In almost all districts except the most central Amman districts, where a heavy urban presence brings regional and political factors into play, this does appear to be the case.

It is widely believed that the IAF fielded two official candidates from the al-Majali clan in al-Karak to weaken the hopes of both head of the right-of-centre al-'Ahd Party 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali and his independent cousin Bahjat al-Majali.

"The al-Majali votes won't be cohesive, but the majority will go to 'Abd al-Hadi despite the IAF's attempt to badly split the al-Majali votes," says an independent observer of the al-Karak elections.

In the governorate, there are many people who are saying the tribal character of the region will dominate the election, but many others are betting that the lack of tribal cohesiveness will result in the failure of many major clans to vote in any of their members.

The issues being raised at local rallies in al-Karak concern provincial rather than national issues, and with votes scrambled among over 60 candidates running for nine seats, the number of vote'a single candidate is likely to get are expected to be around 5,000 compared to over 12,000 during the 1989 elections.

"What this means," says parliamentary hopeful al-Tarawinah (one of seven other al-Tarawinahs running), "is that you will have individuals who represent a very limited number of people with very parochial interests dominating (the next) Parliament."

"Despite all talks to the contrary, the winners of this election will not be party leaders nor tribal chieftains," Mr. al-Tarawinah maintains.

"The victors will be those with the most regional appeal," he says. "Consequently you will have a Parliament which will focus almost exclusively on local rather than national and foreign affairs—it might well be the most convenient time to make peace with Israel."

Likud Triumph in Israeli Local Elections Noted

JN0411121893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Nov 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Do Likud Victories Worry the West"]

[Text] Neither the United States nor any other western state will dare express apprehension about the victories which the Likud Party scored in the Israeli municipal elections. Neither Washington nor any other Western capital will view these victories as a threat to the peace process and a cause of concern for stability in the region. And, certainly, not a single westerner will have the courage to say that the success of the racist Zionist-Talmudic extremism is a threat to democracy, human rights, and civilized conduct.

The double standards, which the West employs when dealing with human issues in our world, have opened the door to ethnic cleansing, incited religious sentiments, and made tolerance yield to extremism. They have also provided numerous chances to all those wishing to disturb peace and destabilize various parts of the world. What we heard about the massacres of Muslims in Yugoslavia is much less than what we heard about the "tragedies" of the sea birds caused by the oil leaks in the wake of the Gulf crisis. What is said in a few parts of our Arab and Muslim worlds about the death of thousands of Iraqi children and sick people is something which no one bothers to mention when talking about human, children's, and women's rights or about the need to provide care for the elderly.

When an Islamic trend gained ground in Algeria, and when members of the Jordanian House of Representatives called for jihad to face the Zionist onslaught against the nation during the Gulf crisis, we saw the westerners lose their mind, and start making threats and telling the world that the Arab and Muslim barbarians are about to target the childhood, innocence, and tranquility of this world.

The Zionist and Talmudic Likud victory in Israel is not just a message to the world that peace is not that noble goal which the enemy and his supporters wish to see. Certainly this victory will not cause concern for Washington or disturb the sleep of any other western capital. The Likud will receive congratulations, and we will be asked not to worry about the election results.

The Likud victory was the triumph of the most extreme over the more extreme. We, therefore, should thoroughly read the meaning of the Labor Party's defeat in the Jerusalem municipal elections, elections in an area that forms three-quarters the area of the West Bank.

We say this while knowing that our problem—as a country and a nation—is not with the Zionist Likud alone, but also with the scores of Likuds that harbor ill-will against this country and nation, and that harbor only bad feelings and ugly schemes against to Arabism and Islam.

Source: Yemeni Attackers Were U.S. Residents

JN0411181993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] An authoritative source in Amman has said that the two Yemenis who participated in an attack on a Jordanian military post near the cease-fire line with Israel last Friday had been residing in the United States, that they had U.S. immigration cards, and that they were Muslim extremists.

Italian Firm To Complete al-Karamah Dam

JN0411204893 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] An Italian construction firm is to build Jordan's second largest water dam in the Jordan Valley. The Water and Irrigation Ministry and the Italian (Salini Atlisitri) Company signed an agreement to complete al-Karamah dam within 42 months.

Work on the project, to be built at a storage capacity of 55 million cubic meters at a cost of 51 million Jordanian dinars, will begin one month after the signing.

The Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Wishah said the dam is one of several reservoirs to be built on wadis for the storage of flood water. He said the project would cover 40,000 donums of cultivated land where an irrigation network had been in place since 1987 but had not been operational.

Lebanon Rejects U.S. Paper on Peace Process

NC0511085393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Diplomatic sources emphasize that the Lebanese Government has informed Washington of its rejection of the latest proposals which U.S. Charge d'Affaires Vincent Battle submitted to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz two days ago. According to U.S. sources, the proposals were intended to advance the peace process.

According to our information, the U.S. paper proposes a new timetable for signing declarations of principle on the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks; it sets January 1994 rather than the end of this year as the date for signing the declarations. The paper expresses willingness to have a face-to-face meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to give positive impetus that would help Rabin in Israel.

The U.S. paper also calls for ending the Arab boycott of Israel, saying this would be largely possible if Kuwait and Saudi Arabia agree to take the lead in ending the boycott. It also calls for annulling UN resolutions concerning the boycott, thus allowing ships that have called at Zionist ports to use Lebanese ports, and allowing planes that land at Israeli airports to use Lebanese airspace. The paper also mentions softening of the anti-Zionist tone of the Lebanese media.

It has been learned that the above-mentioned U.S. proposals were presented with the title: Intermediary Proposals to Move and Activate the Peace Process. They were introduced after U.S. envoy Dennis Ross failed to make any progress during his recent visit to the region.

The sources say that the new U.S. moves are aimed at reviving the settlement talks with the aim of helping Rabin overcome his internal problems in occupied Palestine.

Al-Hirawi Criticizes Palestinians, U.S. Embargo

NC0511083193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] In an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH paper, President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi has underlined Lebanon's determination to maintain the unity of its stand with Syria's vis-a- vis the negotiations with Israel. He also stressed Lebanon's rejection of all forms of resettlement and of sharing waters with Israel.

The president expressed regret that the issue of a solution and peace have been addressed only on a limited scale so far. He said: We have seen only a limited agreement so far, namely the Gaza- Jericho First agreement. He added: Each country has a right to do what it believes to be in its interest. The least that the Palestinians should have done—following all that has occurred between us and them since 1969 and the presence of more than 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon—was to continue coordinating with us regarding all the negotiation tracks.

President al-Hirawi added: I now ask if they are content with Gaza and Jericho and with letting the issue end at this point? We sacrificed our stability as the price for our support to the Palestinians, but they abandoned us when they signed a limited and separate agreement. We support the liberation of every single inch of the Arab territories but within the context of comprehensive Arab concurrence and a full peace. I believe that Lebanon, which has paid a heavy price for their cause, has the right and duty to take care of its own cause and put an end to all its bitterness. I stress on this occasion that we in Lebanon will remain with the Syrian brothers until the end of the road. We accept no solution other than the comprehensive one that liberates the Arab territories, whether in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' or the Golan.

Referring to Lebanon's future role when the desired peace is established, the president said: We are advocates of peace and not warmongers. Our primary aim is to liberate our south and the western al-Biqa' from Israeli occupation; the Lebanese Government will then guarantee that not a single bullet will be fired at Israel from Lebanon's borders. I said this and made this pledge in my speech at the United Nations in 1991 because, as I have just said, we are not warmongers but advocates of peace. I also said at the same time that I cannot sign an agreement on peace and the normalization of relations except within the context of a single Arab stand and with full Arab participation and that Lebanon cannot sign separate agreements. Lebanon's future role if the comprehensive and just peace is established is the responsibility of its sons; and they are capable of defending it.

President al-Hirawi called on those who criticize the state to compare what existed before and after our coming to power so that they can discern the big positive difference with all that has been achieved. He said: So far, Lebanon has seen four governments since we assumed power, and each one of them played a fundamental role in moving from a state of war and destruction to one of stability and prosperity. We are not waiting for grants today, but are seeking low-interest and long-term loans. We have obtained a lot of these loans so far, starting with the World Bank loan. We have already started rebuilding what was destroyed. But we need time to complete our work. It is easy to destroy but rebuilding requires patience, time, and determination.

Regarding the continued U.S. embargo on Lebanon, President al- Hirawi asked: Why all these measures? Are there still hostages in Lebanon? Is the Lebanese people's freedom being violated in their own country? Is there such complete peace in the United States itself and in European countries as there is in Lebanon? As for what is being said about the south and the resistance there, I ask those who are accusing us: Was there not a resistance to the occupation in France during World War II? Was there not a resistance to the occupation in Belgium and in every European country occupied by Germany? Who helped the French Resistance to the German occupation? Was it not the Western countries, led by the United States? How can this fact be reconciled with what they

are telling the Lebanese today, namely: You do not have the right to resist in order to liberate your territories? Why don't they implement Security Council Resolution 425 which demands Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon and the western al-Biqa', but only ask the Lebanese state to fulfill its commitment to stop all attacks on Israel? Why don't they try? Would not this be better than accusing us of things we are innocent of?

President al-Hirawi went on to say: It is my personal assessment—and I am not alone in this—that Lebanon needs movement o on its problem with Israel in order to have movement in its problem with the Americans. To this day, I have no doubt that the U.S. Administration is sometimes influenced by Israel but that the establishment of peace will serve its higher interests.

Hizballah Expects Israel To Step Up 'Aggression'

NC0511074693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim expects Israel to escalate its aggression against the south at this time as an attempt to pressure Lebanon before the bilateral negotiations are resumed. He said the Islamic Resistance will continue its operations and attacks against the Zionists and their agents until the south and Western al-Biqa' are fully liberated.

Hizballah Radio Rounds Up 4 Nov Attacks in South

NC0511074093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Caution prevails in the south amid Zionist attacks that yesterday left five citizens injured and caused some material damage. According to reports from the south, the townships of Tulin, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Duyr al-Zahrani, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Frun, the Litani River basin, the eastern outskirts of al-Nabatiyah, and Kafr Rumman came under fierce artillery shelling.

Security sources said three people were injured in Tulin when the town came under shelling by 155-mm artillery. The sources added that the Zionist shelling against Majdal Silm and Shaqra wounded two civilians. More than 14 Katyusha rockets fell on the periphery of Marj 'Uyun, where the Lahdist agents [South Lebanese Army] have their headquarters. Western al-Biqa' also came under Zionist shelling, with more than 25 shells falling on the hills of Abu- Rashid-al-Jabbur.

The Islamic resistance announced that a number of its units had ambushed Lahdist armored patrols in al-Rayhan and al-'Ayshiyah, attacked an infantry patrol on the Hula road, and shelled the agents' post in Hula. The agents, who suffered many casualties in these attacks, raked the operation areas and the nearby hills. The Islamic resistance artillery returned fire against al-Rayhan barracks, inflicting further losses.

'Secret Contacts, Meetings' With Israel Denied

JN0511164493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Syria has denied the existence of any secret contacts or meetings with Israel. A Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman has told the Syrian News Agency, SANA, that reports published in some media on secret meetings and contacts between Syria and Israel are unfounded.

The spokesman said the only frameworks for discussion about the peace process between the Syrian and Israeli sides are the rounds of the bilateral peace talks in Washington and the efforts exerted by the two sponsors of the Madrid conference between the concerned parties, especially the United States, which plays the role of a fair mediator in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Austria's Vranitzky Assesses Meeting With al-Asad

AU0411153193 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "For Closer Cooperation With Syria"]

[Text] Damascus—Syria is firmly determined to continue its participation in the Middle East peace process, but it does not want, under any circumstances, to abandon the demand for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan Heights. Chancellor Franz Vranitzky made this assessment after a talk with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on Wednesday [3 November].

He emphasized Austria's preparedness for any kind of cooperation with Syria, but he did not press his country on it as a mediator, Vranitzky stressed.

Regarding the Golan Heights, which were conquered by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967 and annexed in 1981, al-Asad is not at all satisfied with the present stage of negotiations; it is currently the president's "most important concern" to achieve the Israeli troops' complete withdrawal from the contested mountain range, Vranitzky said.

The Syrian president was dismayed at the opinion that is obviously prevailing in Europe, namely that, with the Gaza-Jericho agreement concluded between Israel and the PLO, peace has broken out in the Middle East. "With explanations and information," the chancellor now wants to counteract "this specter, which is haunting Western Europe."

Al-Asad also make it quite plain that Syria wants to improve its relations with Europe and the United States, Vranitzky said, conveying his impressions of the tete-a-tete conversation with the president, which lasted for about 40 minutes. However, according to the chancellor's assessment, Syria feels disadvantaged as far as economic cooperation with Europe is concerned.

In this context, al-Asad paid tribute to Austria's role.

In the morning, Vranitzky and his Syrian counterpart Mahmud al-Zu'bi had agreed to establish a joint working group that is to lay the foundation for closer cooperation in economic questions. In order to contribute to confidence-building in the Middle East, Austria wants to organize a "youth peace forum" next summer. Around 60 young people from Israel, the occupied territories, Egypt, and Jordan are to spend 12 days together in Austria and, at a "peace conference" at the end, they are to discuss all questions that also play a role in the body that is taken as a great example.

Today, Vranitzky will conclude his visit to Syria with a trip to Golan.

Calls Visit 'Very Successful,' Departs

JN0411181093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Austrian Chancellor Dr. Franz Vranitsky left Damascus at 1430 today following a three-day visit to Syria. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who bade him farewell. [passage omitted]

Dr. Vranitsky made a statement at the airport in which he said: In my view, and after my talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, my visit to Syria was very successful. We agreed on a number of economic, industrial, and technical issues for cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Vranitsky added: Each side of us has decided to do its best to promote the peace process.

Dr. Vranitsky handed a letter to Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in which he expressed his desire, having held cordial and constructive talks, to bolster relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and to set up a joint Syrian-Austrian committee for economic, trade, educational, scientific, cultural, and technical cooperation. [passage omitted]

Chief Adviser to Turkish Prime Minister Holds Talks

Accusations on Terror Rejected

PM0411164093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 4

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Damascus Rejects Ankara's Accusations, Confirms Ban on Rebel Activities"]

[Text] Damascus—Turkish officials yesterday began talks with the Syrian leadership on what Ankara believes is Syria's connection with the infiltration of Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK] elements into Turkey from Syrian

territory to launch military operations. The Turkish delegation to these talks is headed by Volkan Vural, chief adviser to the Turkish prime minister, and two senior Turkish Foreign Ministry officials.

An official source said in Ankara yesterday that Prime Minster Tansu Ciller is sending the delegation to Damascus to ask the Syrian authorities not to provide any assistance to the gunmen of the PKK, which is led by Abdallah Ocalan, who she believes has taken refuge in Syria.

Last week Ciller accused "neighbors of helping PKK rebels by providing them with shelter and logistic support." No state was named. A government source in Ankara has said that this accusation also includes Armenia, Iran, and Iraq; Ankara has on several occasions complained that they "voluntarily provide assistance to the rebels."

Syrian political sources believe that it is absolutely unjustifiable for the Kurdish rebels problem to return once again to the forefront of events and for accusations to be leveled at Syria, especially at a time when the Syrian and Turkish capitals have taken a serious line toward developing bilateral relations. Political circles in the Syrian capital have also expressed their surprise that this issue should be stirred up at a time when endeavors are being made to push the Middle East peace process forward between Syria and Israel. They also expressed their surprise at the attempt to give the impression that Syria supports terrorism, according to Turkish logic.

Syrian-Turkish relations witnessed a major breakthrough last year, when senior officials from the two countries exchanged visits and several agreements in all spheres were signed. Syrian circles believe that the understanding reached between Damascus and Ankara did not please some official quarters in Turkey. Political and popular circles in Syria have denounced the campaign of accusations launched by some Turkish media services at the behest of some Turkish officials and some Turkish opposition leaders, including the accusation that Syria encourages the acts of violence taking place on the Turkish domestic scene.

Syrian political sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the accusations leveled at Syria are absolutely untrue and designed to divert the Turkish scene's attention from the complex and serious domestic problems which have been facing Turkey for years. They added that Turkish officials are fully aware that the accusations leveled at Syria are untrue and aimed at harming bilateral relations, which have entered a stage of serious development in terms of strong cooperation between the two countries in various spheres.

The sources pointed out that while Syria continues to emphasize its eagerness to maintain relations of good-neighborliness with Turkey, it "strongly rejects the campaign of slander and threats emanating from Ankara and considers this Turkish campaign a reflection of internal political conflicts in Turkey—a campaign in which current violent incidents there, which Syria has nothing to do with, are exploited."

Al-Shar' Confers With Envoy

JN0411173793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, [Foreign] Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Volkan Vural, special adviser to the Turkish prime minister, and Ambassador Bilgin Unan, deputy under secretary for political affairs at the Turkish Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with the international and regional situation and relations between Syria and Turkey. Vural expressed the Turkish Government's earnest desire to establish the best relations of cooperation with Syria. He denied anti-Syrian statements attributed to Turkish officials. Vural emphasized that major international changes require further consolidation of friendship and cooperation in all fields. He stressed the Turkish Government's commitment to the agreements signed with Syria, especially those covering water issues.

Vural expressed the conviction that the message that he is carrying from Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Cillar to President Hafiz al-Asad stresses the sincere desire of the Turkish prime minister and government to bolster and cement relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Turkey in all areas.

For his part, Faruq al-Shar' emphasized Syria's interest in promoting and expanding relations with Turkey in all fields in the interest of the two countries and their peoples. He stressed the importance of implementing the agreements signed between Syria and Turkey.

The foreign minister indicated that neither of the two neighboring countries benefit from the exchange of hostile statements and media campaigns. He stressed that the historical links and mutual interests between the Syrian and Turkish peoples are stronger than all hostile statements and campaigns.

The minister said that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, is interested in the Turkish territorial unity and integrity and in the security and stability of this neighboring and friendly country.

Al-Shar': Syria Willing To Cooperate

TA0411121293 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] The Turkish delegation sent to Syria to relay a message from Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to the Syrian Administration has met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

All issues of concern to both countries were discussed in the meeting between al-Shar' and Ambassador Volkan Vural, chief adviser at the Prime Minister's Office; Ambassador Bilgin Unan, deputy under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; and the accompanying delegation.

According to information issued by the Foreign Ministry, al-Shar' stated during the meeting that Syria is willing and determined to cooperate with Turkey in all areas. The statement points out that there was agreement regarding the development of bilateral cooperation within a framework of trust and respect for mutual interests.

Al-Asad Receives Envoy

JN0511161593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 5 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1130 today Volkan Vural, envoy of Turkish Prime Minister Mrs. Tansu Ciller, and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

During the meeting, the President received a letter from Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller dealing with cooperation between the two countries in various areas. The President then handed Volkan a reply letter containing Syria's eagerness to promote cooperation between the two countries in all areas.

U.S. Urged To Act in 'Concrete, Effective' Manner

JN0411074793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 4 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace Process Predicament," AL-BA'TH says: There can be no doubt now that Israel does not want peace under whatever concept or formula, but seeks full, unconditional Arab surrender to its conditions and demands.

AL-BA'TH adds: Recent developments in this respect, including the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the Taba negotiations, which have quickly faltered as a result of the Israeli position, and the suppressive settler terror campaigns against Arabs in the occupied territories, confirm the nature of the current and future Israeli attitude that is meant to sabotage the peace process.

AL-BA'TH goes on: If peace is to be rescued, there is a pressing need for the international family, especially the United States—the major sponsor of the peace process—to act in a concrete, effective manner to straighten things out and prevent Israel from executing its subversive scheme.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Under the current international circumstances, peace is no longer an Arab demand; it is an international necessity that expresses the world's aspiration for security and stability. Any international laxity toward Israel will aggravate the peace predicament and lead to the collapse of all hopes of a just, comprehensive, real peace in the Middle East and the world.

Assembly Endorses Regional Power Grid Agreement

JN0311151193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly met tonight in a session chaired by Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. Several ministers attended. At the outset, written questions from the members were read and referred to the competent quarters through the Prime Ministry Office.

Afterward, a report by the Production and Planning Committee and the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee was read. The report concerns a draft law that includes ratification of a general trade agreement for an electricity grid among the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Iraq, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Turkish Republic.

Several members asked questions and made remarks about the agreement. Electricity Minister Engineer Kamil al-Baba replied to the questions and remarks. The People's Assembly then endorsed the draft law. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Ambassador to Iran Discusses Domestic Developments

NC2810115093 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Oct 93 p 12

[Interview with Seyyed Mohammad Kheyrkhah, Afghan ambassador to Iran, by unidentified correspondent at the Afghan Embassy in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Do you know when the elections are to be held in Afghanistan? Apparently it has been said that they are to be held soon.

[Kheyrkhah] No date for the elections has been set yet because the political situation and the necessary security for the elections have not yet been created. But we support the principle of elections and the people's participation in determining their fate and our efforts are to create the necessary conditions for the elections to be held.

[Correspondent] But news agencies report that the elections are imminent and the press cites the Afghan Government as having set the date in October.

[Kheyrkhah] This report stems from the view of some parties and is not definite. As long as the problems faced by the elections are not solved, elections will not be held.

[Correspondent] By problems are you referring to the fact that the people are armed, or are there other problems?

[Kheyrkhah] What I mean is that understanding and agreement, which are among the primary tools for stability and tranquility in the country, have not yet been reached among the groups and parties. Therefore, no date for the elections can be envisaged in view of the prevailing situation.

[Correspondent] If you agree, we can move on to another topic, Mr. Kheyrkhah! As you know, apart from the fact that the 40-man Constitutional Committee and the draft constitution which it has prepared have roused the opposition of the Shiites in Afghanistan, this issue has also given rise to opposition by some of the influential Sunni political parties in the country. Moreover, this law has not been approved by the nation at a time when the value of a constitution lies in the approval it receives from the nation. It is feared that the unilateral act by Mr. Rabbani that was carried out without any consultations is similar to his unilateral act last year when he appointed the members of the Settlement Council and will lead to a new round of violence in the country. What is Your Excellency's opinion?

[Kheyrkhah] This law is not Afghanistan's final and permanent constitution. We will definitely compile the final constitution. However, the existing draft shows that the grounds for the compilation of the constitution exist in the country and, God willing, when compiling this law we will use the views of scholars and experts.

[Correspondent] Then why did you not use these experts and scholars when compiling the draft constitution?

[Kheyrkhah] Let me tell you that the people who compiled the draft constitution were not ordinary people. But what I mean is that when it comes to studying the final constitution which will be the permanent one, we will take all aspects into consideration and we will definitely study the rights of the Shiites and of the women as well as other shortcomings in the bill and make the necessary adjustments. I believe that we should go to the Shiite areas and reach an agreement with them. But the truth is that there cannot be two official religions in a country. The Shiites' complaint is why the Hanafite religion has been established as the country's official religion. But I say that the president is aware of this problem and he has not yet made a decision on it. This issue should be 'increased. I want to tell you that the situation in Afghanistan is not one in which extremist or unilateral decisions are made without taking the other side into consideration. But as far as the compilation of the draft constitution is concerned, discussions are continuing. The text has not yet been signed by the president and we are still at the beginning of the road. As for women, I should say that you have ignored the prevailing traditions as far as women in Afghanistan are concerned. We should prepare the grounds before granting some freedoms and rights to women. I remember when the interim government stated in the Peshawar pact that a ministry called the ministry for women's affairs would be created, there was so much opposition that there was fear that guns would be brandished and the discussions would turn to bloodshed. Therefore, you should not forget what the traditional fabric of Afghanistan is like. We should act in such a way as to avoid the creation of other problems.

[Correspondent] In other words, do you defend the way women's rights are envisaged in the draft constitution?

[Kheyrkhah] No, I do not. I am saying that all aspects should be studied and that each decision that we make must be weighed.

[Correspondent] If you limit the rights of the women in your country because you fear that arms will be brandished by one tribe or another, then you are actually endorsing these tribes' superstitious beliefs. These superstitions should be removed, and the outlook of the people should be clarified and changed. The place to start is with the compilation of the constitution. Therefore, the feeling is that Afghanistan's problem is not a problem of the men and women of Afghanistan. The main problem is the existence of superstitious beliefs among the 40 members of Mr. Rabbani's committee.

[Kheyrkhah] Mr. Rabbani's 40-member group comprises some scholars and some of the representatives who have been appointed by political parties. I repeat what I originally said—that the compilation of the constitution without assessing and being aware of the fabric that constitutes Afghan society and its traditions is not a

simple task. Meanwhile, as far as I know, no mention has been made in the draft constitution against the rights of women. In general, in view of the sensitivity that exists as far as the prevailing traditions in Afghanistan are concerned, discussions on this topic have been postponed to a later date. This does not mean that women's rights have been ignored.

[Correspondent] Given your view that the draft constitution is a positive step, why do many of the Sunni political parties oppose this law? The prime minister of Afghanistan and his Islamic Party, Mr. Mojaddedi's National Liberation Party, Mr. Geylani's Mahaz-e Eslami, General Dostam's National Islamic Movement of the North, and some other political parties oppose this draft constitution. If the logic behind your views on the rights of women and Shiites in Afghanistan is accepted, then what is the reason behind the Sunni parties' opposition with this law?

[Kheyrkhah] Representatives of all of the parties that you have named participated in the commission, but they feel that by voicing their opposition, they can create a political atmosphere from which they can reap benefits whenever necessary. This is characteristic of how we Afghans attempt to exploit each incident politically.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador! None of the Aghan political officials we have spoken with has admitted that he has ignored anyone's rights. However, there is a big difference between their words and deeds. I heard exactly the same argument from Mr. Rabbani during an exclusive interview in Jakarta. But so far his deeds have been proven to be quite different from his words.

[Kheyrkhah] The practical application of an issue always has its problems. But I assure you that the rights of the Shiites and of everyone else will be observed in Afghanistan. Look at the ministers in the current cabinet, and you will see that many of them are Shiites.

[Correspondent] But this cabinet will not last.

[Kheyrkhah] Nevertheless, the government's general program will not change. If it does not improve, it will not become worse either. Like you, we will not allow the rights of the Shiites to be trampled.

[Correspondent] Mr. Kheyrkhah, the Russian Government has constantly accused the Afghan Government of extending arms and propaganda assistance to the Tajik rebels. Do you accept this accusation?

[Kheyrkhah] No, we will never accept this accusation. We do not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country, and we do not want other countries to interfere in our domestic affairs either. The truth is that Tajikistan is facing a crisis and a domestic conflict. Naturally, a large number of refugees from that country have entered northern Afghanistan. These people, numbering more than 100,000, have mostly come with their families. Granting asylum to these people is a humanitarian issue and does not in any way mean that we have extended arms and propaganda assistance. No armed Tajik has entered Afghanistan, and Afghanistan has not placed any arms at their disposal. Tajikistan has a problem with its own people, and this is a problem that it should solve itself. Accusing others will not solve anything. We have more right to protest than they do because the Russians have deployed their forces on the Tajik-Afghan border now and have bombarded our border areas several times, martyring some of our people. We have shown self-restraint, but the criticisms that are aimed at us by the Russians and Tajiks are inappropriate.

[Correspondent] Has the influx of Tajiks stopped, or is it continuing?

[Kheyrkhah] I think that with the calming of the situation in Tajikistan, this influx of refugees will decrease.

[Correspondent] Among the problems that have cast their shadow on Russian-Afghan relations is the problem of the Russian POW's who were taken prisoner in Afghanistan during the 10 years of war. The Russians want their POW's to be released. How many Russian POW's are there in Afghanistan, and what has Kabul decided to do?

[Kheyrkhah] There is no precise figure on the number of Russian POW's in Afghanistan, but I think that it is not a very large number. Most of them were killed during the years of occupation because the feelings of the people were uncontrollable then. But some of them do not want to return to their country, and Kabul does not insist on keeping them. We also have a number of POW's in Russia, but the Russians deny it.

[Correspondent] Mr. Kheyrkhah, it seems that a large part of the Afghan Army's military strength—from airplanes to tanks and so on—are intact and in the hands of General Dostam in the north. It seems that since General Dostam enjoys the Army's support, he is not giving in easily to the decisions by the president or by the central government in Kabul. Is this a correct assessment?

[Kheyrkhah] We have similar arms in other parts of the country too, but the truth is that Dostam cannot be classified as the top military official in the country. The best thing would be for him to be absorbed by the Afghan government forces.

[Correspondent] This is your solution, but does he feel the same way?

[Kheyrkhah] This is the most logical way. There is no other way.

[Correspondent] Has Dostam acted according to this solution?

[Kheyrkhah] I think that one of the detrimental aspects of the distribution of arms among the people is the fact that it leads to vanity. This vanity exists today, but it cannot achieve anything. For example, if Dostam orders his troops to do something, it is not as though his troops will simply obey. Meanwhile, it is not correct to say that

the strongest forces in Afghanistan are at Dostam's disposal. There are jehadi forces and government forces in northern Afghanistan as well, and it is not as though he has total control there. I do not think that it is in Mr. Dostam's interest to array his forces against the nation and the government.

[Correspondent] Apparently the Americans are doing their best to get back the Stinger missiles that were placed in the hands of some Afghan groups as assistance during the Russian occupation of Afghanistan. We have heard that they are paying an astronomical sum to buy back these Stingers. What is the Kabul government's position on this?

[Kheyrkhah] I, too, have heard this report. The Stingers that are in the hands of the people of Afghanistan will not be returned to the Americans in any way. If America helped the mojahedin during the war, it was because it wanted to create a defensive barrier along the former Soviet Union's southern border. The Americans acted according to their hegemonistic interests and their intention was never humanitarian in nature. These arms and the other arms that fell into the hands of the mojahedin during the years that Afghanistan was under occupation are among Afghanistan's assets and will never be handed over to others.

[Correspondent] Do you feel that a specific danger is threatening the future of your country?

[Kheyrkhah] Yes. I see the danger as coming from Afghanistan's solitude. In those days when the Americans supported us, they considered us a shield for their policies vis-a-vis the Russians. But they let us go after the downfall of communism. The United Nations also does not support us. We need money and unity. Afghan society is in great need of Islamic unity. We need a healthy economy. Our society needs reconstruction. We are facing a difficult winter. We need fuel and many other commodities. These are needs which, if not supplied, will threaten us.

[Correspondent] How do you see the repatriation process of the Afghan refugees residing in Iran?

[Kheyrkhah] I feel that this process, even though slow, continues despite the economic problems that exist on the other side of the border in Afghanistan. Nevertheless, we hope that we will continue to enjoy the cooperation that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran are extending, and we hope that the Afghans living in Iran will not be pressured to return to their country.

[Correspondent] Mr. Kheyrkhah! We sincerely thank you for having granted us and the readers of our newspaper this opportunity.

[Kheyrkhah] I too thank you for your attention to the problems of Afghanistan.

Hezbe-e Eslami Forces Repelled in Tagab District

LD0411193093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] As a result of attacks on the raiders of Golboddin's Hezb-e Eslami by the Afghan Army, a number of them have been [words indistinct] and 54 others have been taken prisoner by Afghan forces. A responsible source from the Ministry of Defense told a BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military correspondent that Islamic Army forces have, over the past three days, disrupted numerous attacks by Hezb-e Eslami, which were backed by heavy weapons and rockets, and yesterday evening pushed back Hezb-e Eslami raiders in a responsive attack, and as a result, ousted a large number of them from the battlefield and took a number of others prisoner.

During the course of three days of fighting, the source said: Forces of the Islamic State, who took mainly defensive positions, did not stop the advance of the raiding forces for tactical reasons in some areas. Later, by commencing responsive attacks, they inflicted heavy blows on Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, and cleared up some areas of Tagab and (?blocked) their advance. As a result of the clearing up operation and responsive attacks yesterday and today, the Islamic Army was able to take a number of Hezb-e Eslami's members prisoner and captured a large quantity of heavy and light weapons, and were able to destroy a large quantity of weapons. The Defense Ministry source said: Now there are no raiders in Tagab District, and forces of the Islamic Army have taken full control in the area.

The report that was carried tonight by the BBC—on the advance of Golboddin's party—was last night's report, which its correspondent had acquired in Sarobi from members of Hekmatyar's party. Whereas the raiders were faced with complete defeat today and were pushed out of Tagab District, the Islamic Army of Afghanistan continues to pursue the retreat of Hezb-e Eslami forces.

Peace Commission Holds Extraordinary Session

LD0411210893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] An extraordinary session of the commission on all-out peace in the country held a session today in the prime ministerial building. The press office of the prime minister told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the session, in line with the instructions of the high session of ministers, held talks on everyday issues, on military commissions, and on the activities of the peace delegation. The session was attended by esteemed Engineer Qotboddin Helal, first deputy prime minister, esteemed Mohammad Arsalam Rahmani, deputy prime minister and minister of endowments and guidance, esteemed Seyyed Mohammad Ali Javed, minister of planning, esteemed Professor Seyyed Mohammad Omar Monib, minister of higher and vocational education, and Faizullah Kakar, deputy minister

of public health. The session resolved that talks on important issues should be conducted in the next session which will be held at 1000 [local time] on Saturday, 16 November with the participation of esteemed Mohammad Sadeq Chakari, esteemed Dr. (Fazlrahman), esteemed Qari Abdollah [name indistinct], and important members of the military commission.

Bangladesh

Home Minister Comments on 'Terrorist' Activities

BK0511065393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 5 (AFP)—Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said Friday he was worried about "terrorist" activities in Bangladesh but denied that it was out of control.

He was referring to a spate of student and politically-linked violence across the country.

In an interview published in the daily Banglabazar Patrika newspaper, Chowdhury said the "present situation is worrying, but not out of control." He said steps were being taken to curb the violence, but did not elaborate.

Since coming to power in 1991, an estimated 1,000 leaders and workers of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) have been arrested for "terrorist activities," he said.

A BNP student leader was killed in a shootout at Dhaka University on Monday caused by internal party rivalries. Five members of the student wing were expelled after the incident.

In the past 10 months campus violence has claimed 35 lives and left more than 2,300 people injured nationwide.

But Chowdhury ruled out banning student politics.

He appealed to opposition Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed to cooperate in combatting the violence. "With her help we can take stern steps against terrorists," he said.

He rejected opposition charges that the tough Anti-Terrorism Act, which carries the death penalty, was being "misused."

Wajed last month accused the government of using the act to repress its rivals, equating it with "state terrorism.

Garment, Tea Export Revenues Up in First Quarter

BK0411125493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The country earned over $410 million by exporting ready- made garments during the first three months of the current fiscal year. The amount is 16 percent higher than that of the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. During the same period of the previous year, the earning was about $385 million. Our economic correspondent understands the earning in this sector is more than 56 percent of the total export earnings of this period.

The country has also made significant achievement in tea exports during the period. Export earning in the sector was over $12 million. The earning has increased by over 93 percent.

Trade, Economic Talks With U.S. 'Very Fruitful'

BK0411161493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Talks were held in Dhaka today between Bangladesh and United States on major issues concerning bilateral, multilateral, and regional interests. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman led the Bangladesh side at the talks, while the visiting assistant secretary of state, Miss Robin L. Raphael, headed the U.S. side. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Reaz Rahman said the talks were very fruitful and covered various areas of common interest. He said trade, economic cooperation, and all other mattes of mutual concern came up for discussion. The foreign secretary said the United States praised Dhaka's increasing role in the maintenance of world peace and tranquillity.

The visiting U.S. assistant secretary of state called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in Dhaka today. The home minister informed her that Bangladesh has given comprehensive cooperation to Rohingya refugees despite limitations of wealth. It is also very much eager for their safe and early repatriation. Miss Raphael appreciated the humanitarian attitude of Bangladesh toward the Rohingya refugees.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state also called on Industries Minister A.N. Zahiruddin Khan. They discussed matters of bilateral and mutual interest.

India

Daily Deplores U.S. Comments on Kashmir

BK0511100993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 1 Nov 93 p 1

[By H.K. Dua]

[Text] The time has come for India to make it clear to Bill Clinton's administration that it will not allow itself to be bullied and accept a solution of the Kashmir question that compromises its territorial integrity. A categorical reassertion of India's position—backed by mobilisation of the national will—has become essential in view of the shocking pronouncement Washington has suddenly made questioning the Instrument of Accession by which the State of Jammu and Kashmir joined the Indian Union in October 1947.

What apparently was not an innocuous statement was made by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel in a background briefing for South-Asian correspondents in Washington on Thursday. It should not have come as a surprise to those who tried to understand the implications of Bill Clinton's address to the United Nations last month in which he chose to bracket Kashmir with such civil war areas weighing heavy on his mind as Angola and Caucasus. This is not the first time since independence the United States is exhibiting a pro- Pakistan tilt on Kashmir but never has a U.S. President chosen to refer to Kashmir in his UN address or the State Department guestioned the Instrument of Accession in the manner in which Ms. Raphel has done.

New Delhi's anger over what she said is fully justified. What Washington is unable to see is the setback its stand has caused to Indo-U.S. relations which were showing marked improvement in many areas during the last two years. Ms. Raphel's statement has also done serious damage to the sub-continental situation: it has with one stroke pushed back the prospects of the resumption of a dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir—an aim the U.S. itself has been trying to promote openly by statements and behind-the-scene by more than gentle efforts.

For over two years, India has been taking pains to improve relations with the United States. It was important for pursuing its national interest. The post-Cold War situation had indeed dictated another look at India's foreign policy. There was hardly any money left in the kitty and as such India was compelled to approach the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. India chose to go ahead with economic reforms opening out its markets to foreign companies. It went in for defence cooperation with the United States. It opened diplomatic relations with Israel to acquire greater flexibility and hoping that it will please the Americans. But what Ms. Raphel has said is bound to make most people in India feel that this massive effort to have better relations with the United States was perhaps not worth it.

Washington has now stepped up pressures on India to make it accept a Nuclear Non-Proliferation regime of sorts and give up its nuclear option. India is also being asked to accept limits on its missile programme; Boris Yeltsin's Russia has been asked to cancel the Cryogenic engine deal; the restrictions on the dual-use technology have been made more rigorous. And now has come the U.S. decision to come out with a tougher position on Kashmir as enunciated by Ms. Robin Raphel. In effect, the U.S. has virtually gone back to the position it took way back in the 1950s. The great divide it created then between India and the U.S. has lasted more than four decades. With all the nasty reports that are pouring in from Washington it will be difficult even for those who believe in spreading goodwill to put the relations between India and the United States back on the rails for some time.

Why Ms. Raphel chose to make the controversial statement at a time when India is facing a messy situation at Hazratbal will remain a mystery. But the Clinton Administration's decision to restore the pro-Pakistan tilt was evident last May when John Mallot of the State Department visited Delhi and did some blunt talking. New Delhi was told later that the U.S. meant well towards India and it was simply encouraging India and Pakistan and the third party—the people of Kashmir—to work towards a settlement of the long-outstanding dispute. Washington has simply forgotten the simple lesson known to the world of diplomacy that those who take upon themselves the task of brokering peace have the chance of succeeding only if they are objective and impartial in approach. Such does not appear to be the case with the United States these days.

India must and has to sort out its problems with the people in the Valley. But the emphasis in the reports from Washington on the presence of a third party, besides India and Pakistan, sounds sinister, taking into account the various exercises professional problem-solvers are carrying out in the U.S.. These are clearly aimed at another partition of Kashmir and the creation of an independent Kashmir consisting of the Valley and the Muslim- dominated areas like Kargil in the Ladakh and Doda in the Jammu provinces. Many an American has fiddled with the idea of an independent Kashmir in the past, but the present set of policy makers seems to be more ardent about it. A simple truth has not dawned on them that there is no one in India who is prepared to discuss secession of a part of the country—including Kashmir—with anyone and also that arm-twisting has not and cannot work with a nation of 900 million people. Challenged, these people can muster enough national will to defend the country's unity.

U.S. Said Promoting Kashmiri Politician as Leader

BK0411081293 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Oct 93 p 1

[By Bharat Bhushan in Washington: "U.S. Playing a Lone Hand in Kashmir?"]

[Text] Washington D.C.—Has the United States been attempting to build an alternative political leadership in Kashmir? It would seem that the Indian officials have reason to believe so, after a statement made by Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel before the Sub-committee on Asia and Pacific of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Raphel told the sub-committee on Tuesday that the US Embassy in New Delhi had been in touch with Kashmiri politician Abdu Ghani Lone on and off over the last year-and-a-half. Indian officials see this as interference in Kashmir by the US, but are reluctant to go on record as saying it "The Americans obviously were not asking Lone about the weather in Srinagar. They have been promoting him as a political leader in Kashmir," said an Indian official who naturally did not want to be identified.

Lone who heads the All Party Huriya Conference, was injured in, lathi-charge the other day while leading a

march in Srinagar demanding the withdrawal of the security forces surrounding the Hazaratbal mosque, where separatist militants have been holed up for over a week. The Clinton administration, as well as several US Congressmen, have expressed concern about Lone's well-being and have urged the Government of India to provide him with proper medical assistance.

(ENS adds from New Delhi: A US Embassy official in the Capital visited Lone at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here on Thursday to ascertain his condition.)

Indian officials say Raphel had said at an Asia Society lecture that there was a political vacuum in Kashmir, but she expected the situation to change soon. They argue that this statement also bolsters their hypothesis that Lone was being built up as a political leader to fill this vacuum by the US.

Pakistani 'Interference' in Kashmir Condemned

BK0511001693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Oct 93 p 8

[Editorial: "An Ominous Signal"]

[Text] The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Farooq Leghari, has put the proposed Indo-Pakistan dialogue in jeopardy by setting preconditions for such an effort to improve bilateral relations. He has demanded a reduction of Indian troops in Kashmir and a lifting of the security cordon around the Hazratbal Dargah in Srinagar which has been taken over by a large number of well-armed terrorists obviously to turn it into a base for their operations. The demand is a gross interference in India's internal affairs. The irony of it is that Leghari has put forward the preconditions in the name of creating a proper atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue between the two countries' Prime Ministers. He himself has vitiated the atmosphere. The terrorists have committed a grave act of profanity by using the shrine for the political purpose of provoking an armed clash with the security forces. No government worth the name can permit this. In any case the Government of Pakistan has no business telling the Indian authorities how they should or should not deal with the present threat to the safety of the shrine or, for that matter, any other law-and-order problem.

Inevitably, the Pakistan Foreign Minister's provocative utterance about a conditional resumption of Indo-Pakistan talks on Kashmir set the stage for anti-Indian outbursts in the Parliament. There was a competition, as it were, in an anti-Indian tirade between various parties. This, of course, conforms to the pattern of Pakistani politics. The ostensible anxiety about the situation in and around Hazratbal was only an excuse for the Pakistani parties to further fuel anti-Indian frenzy on this occasion. It is not merely Qazi Hussain, the fire-eating Islamic fundamentalist politician, who demanded a "strong military response" to the Hazratbal standoff. Even Senator Yahya Bukhtiar, a former attorney-general, seemed to agree with the Qazi.

There was, however, a lone voice of sanity and that belonged to Abdur Rahim Khan Mandokhel of the Pakhtoonkhwa Mili Awami Party. He called for restraint. More significantly, he decried interference in other countries' affairs in the name of Islam and added: "Pakistani law does not permit setting up of terrorist centres....Kashmiri militants trained in Afghanistan have learnt to shoot by aiming at the chests of Afghans". This is the plain truth about Pakistan's "moral, diplomatic and political" support to Kashmiris, of which Leghari has again spoken as Pakistani politicians have always done as a ritual to cloak the real design, namely, to grab Kashmir. If the Foreign Minister set conditions for a dialogue just to steal the expected thunder of the speakers to follow him, the overall effect of his exercise has only been to reinforce their aggressive posture.

Arrested Punjabi Leader Denounces Pakistani Policy

BK0511082093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] In Chandigarh, Dr. Sohan Singh, the Punjab militants' leader who was arrested yesterday, has disclosed that he was planning to go to Dhaka to meet the people of various embassies there to get international support to his militant activities. In a long video interview with him shown to newspersons in Chandigarh this morning, he said Pakistan's national policy is to weaken India and create trouble by fomenting violence by various militant organizations. He said Islamabad is supporting the leaders of seven leftover terrorist groups who have been given safe and enjoyable stay in Pakistan to create trouble in India through their organizations. Dr. Singh also criticized the Akali factions for what he described as their opportunistic ideologies and pursuing cheap methods to capture political power.

The Punjab director general of police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen that Dr. Singh has been arrested under the National Securities Act and he is being interrogated further.

Further Round of Talks Held With 'Militants'

BK0511035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the condition of the J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] governor's advisor, retired Lieutenant General M.A. Zaki has shown further improvement. He is still in the army hospital. He talked to some senior officials last evening.

The commissioner of Kashmir Division, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, with serious head injuries is in a critical condition at the Sher-e- Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences. The CAT scan done on him last evening showed no blood thrombin. Doctors consider it a positive sign. Two doctors from Delhi arrived in Srinagar

last evening along with some family members of Mr. Habibullah. As reported earlier, Gen. al Zaki and Mr. Habibullah were injured seriously in a road accident in Srinagar yesterday.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the governor's advisor, Lieutenant General D.D. (Saklani), has been asked to look after the Home portfolio and the additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, has assumed the role of the chief government negotiator on the Hazratbal Shrine tangle. These changes have been made after the governor's advisor, Lieutenant General M.A. Zaki, and the chief government negotiator, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, were seriously injured in a road accident in Srinagar yesterday.

Mr. Mahmudur Rahman held a round of direct negotiations last evening with the militants holed up inside the shrine since the 15th of last month. Another round is expected today.

Meanwhile, precautionary curfew has been imposed in Anantnag and Bijbiara towns and six police station areas of Srinagar city. According to the police chief, Mr. Sabharwal, the situation is peaceful throughout the Kashmir valley.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has alleged that the center is not handling the situation at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar properly. Addressing a public meeting in Lucknow last evening, he said that the militants inside the shrine should not be allowed to go to Pakistan at any cost as they have violated the law of the land.

Report on Army Chief's Reaction to Siege Denied

BK0411160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The governor of Jammu and Kashmir, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has paid glowing tributes to the Indian Army for its outstanding work in guiding the borders and fighting terrorism in the border state. In a statement issued today, he said that the officers and jawans [soldiers] of the Army have functioned in an exemplary manner with great restraint and discipline during the Hazratbal crisis and credit for this also goes to the leadership of the chief of the Army staff, General B.C. Joshi. Gen Krishna Rao said he holds the Army chief in the highest personal affection and professional esteem.

The Defense Ministry has described the reports as totally incorrect pertaining to the visit and reaction of the chief of the Army staff, General B.C. Joshi, at the handling of the Hazratbal situation in Kashmir. Referring to the reports which appeared in a section of the press yesterday and today, the spokesman of the Defense Ministry said in New Delhi these are factually wrong.

Army's 'Restraint' During Siege Praised

BK0411144493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The governor of Jammu and Kashmir, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has paid glowing tributes to the Indian Army for its outstanding work in guiding the borders and fighting terrorism in this border state. In a statement issued today, the governor said that the officers and jawans [soldiers] of the Army have functioned in an exemplary manner with great restraint and discipline during the Hazratbal shrine and credit for this also goes to the leadership of the chief of the Army staff, General B.C. Joshi. Gen Krishna Rao said he holds the Army chief in the highest personal affection and professional esteem.

Nuclear Plant To Function Under New Safeguards

BK0411093093 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 93 p 16

[Rajendra Prabhu report]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 22: The nuclear power plant at Tarapur will continue to function under a new bilateral safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] even after the existing trilateral agreement, including the United States, expires on Oct. 24, Department of Atomic Energy sources told this correspondent.

This new bilateral agreement would be an interim measure pending finalisation of another bilateral agreement with IAEA which will bring the reprocessing of the spent fuel from Tarapur, the fabrication of the fuel from the plutonium extracted from it and the running of the nuclear power plants' two reactors using the mixed uranium plutonium oxide fuel made in this country to replace the imported enriched uranium fuel.

The clearance of the interim agreement by the IAEA board last month is taken as a gesture of faith of the international agency and its board of governors which include USA, in the Indian adherence to nuclear non-proliferation even without signing any treaty in this regard.

The significance of the fact that for 19 long years after India demonstrated its nuclear detonation capability, it has not conducted any nuclear test, had begun to register in international fora like IAEA. This is contrasted in experts' meetings with the hurry in Pakistan to gain nuclear weapon status by resorting to all sorts of illegal means, including downright stealing of nuclear materials and designs.

International nuclear experts are now realising the contrast in Pakistan's hurry to acquire nuclear weapon status while its inability to domestically make even a small research reactor. Recently, Pakistan, which claims to have its own nuclear weapon, had to import from China a small 30 KV low flux research reactor.

Compare this with what India has in research reactors alone—upto 100 MW variable neutron flux research reactor "Dhruva" was fully designed and built in this country with totally indigenous effort back in 1988.

What international fora are deliberating is the demonstrated Indian capabilities in areas like nuclear power and research. India has, for instance, recently offered to export under IAEA safeguards, research reactors with high neutron flux using U-233 fuel derived from thorium which no other country in the world has ever done.

In this context, Indian atomic energy experts are trying to work out with the IAEA a satisfactory arrangement by which the plutonium to be extracted from the spent fuel at Tarapur thermal reactors would be fully accounted for. This would put at ease America's genuine anxieties regarding use of such plutonium.

If the United States would not object to such arrangement which meets its nuclear proliferation fears, it is also because of a better understanding of Indian nuclear capabilities and aims in that country in recent days. The United States has a powerful voice in the Vienna-based IAEA governing body.

The nuclear "safeguards" which ensure that nuclear materials are not diverted to weapon purposes, are administered by the IAEA.

So far the United States had been taking the stand that India should not reprocess the spent fuel from the Tarapur unit based on the enriched uranium supplied by it.

The legal provision in the Indo-U.S. agreement on Tarapur is that there should be a "joint determination" on the safeguardability of the reprocessed material—experts point out that it does not bar India from reprocessing as such.

The United States had been hesitating to take up "joint determination' of the safeguardability of the reprocessing and instead had been opposing reprocessing itself on the ground that it was opposed to making of plutonium.

The nuclear weapons in the U.S. are known to be using plutonium which meant reprocessing had been going on. Recently, Japan had gone ahead with reprocessing and using plutonium. U.S. was unable to persuade Germany not to reprocess spent fuel.

Apparently the U.S. is now beginning to understand that in the light of difficulties in transporting all the Tarapur spent fuel rods back to that country, let alone finding a dump for them, reprocessing is the only solution. And that such reprocessing would have to take place in India. Its objections to reprocessing therefore could be counterproductive.

Besides, the spent fuel which is highly radioactive and has to be safeguarded against leakage, cannot be disposed of without reprocessing even if the plutonium byproduct is not used for anything else.

This places the U.S. in a dilemma in asking India not to reprocess the spent fuel. There is already a problem of storage of this spent fuel at Tarapur.

As a result of all these considerations, the Indian proposal to reprocess the spent fuel, extract plutonium and use it further, all under internationally acceptable "safeguards", is getting wide acceptance as the only option.

Incidentally, this also resolves the Tarapur issue which had affected Indo-U.S. relations all these years. The U.S. insistence on extending the safeguards meant for Tarapur to all nuclear installations in India, is becoming increasingly untenable in the context of India's own self-reliance in the nuclear field.

Also, Indian transparency in its nuclear programme is stated to contrast with the deception and double-talk in Pakistan.

Iran

Nateq-Nuri Hails Occupation of U.S. 'Spy Den'

LD0411174693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] A ceremony marking 4 November, the national day of struggle against world arrogance and student day, was held this afternoon with a speech by the Majles speaker in front of the American spy den in Tehran.

A group of clergy, Majles deputies, thousands of school and university students, and various groups of other people participated in this glorious ceremony in which the Majles speaker spoke of the day as one of the historic events of the revolution.

Recalling the takeover of the American spy den by the children of the revolution and students following the imam's line, Mr. Nateq-Nuri termed the move a guarantor of the Islamic revolution. He said: The blessings of this brave action included the elimination of liberals and the Westernized. Emphasizing the fact that the takeover of the American spy den ended the myth of American invincibility in the world he said: If today the people across the world witness American defeats in Somalia and other parts of the world, these defeats could not have been without the influence of the blessings of the revolutionary action of the students following the imam's line in 1979.

While pointing out the reasons for American enmity against the Islamic revolution, the Majles speaker said: America is the greatest violater of human rights in the world and the proof lies in its open support for Israeli state terrorism. Finally, pointing out that our struggle against America has ideological roots, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to insist on its principled stance regarding the struggle against America.

At the end of the ceremony a nine-point resolution was read out which was confirmed by shouts of God is great

by those present. In a section of the resolution, stress was laid on an all-embracing program and the onslaught of the world's Muslim and freedom-seeking forces to cut off all the roots of dependence on world arrogance—led by America. It declared: We obey the edicts of our exalted leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the rightful successor to our demised imam, one of the great blessings and fruits of the Islamic revolution, and we support his axial role in strengthening the ranks of the Islamic community [ummah] in the campaign against criminal America.

Another section of the resolution stresses support for the innocent Palestinian, Bosnian, Egyptian, Algerian, Kashmiri, and Somali Muslims, condemns the ignominious compromise with the Zionist regime by the PLO, and calls for the mobilization of all the financial and spiritual resources of the world Muslims for the liberation of the honorable Jerusalem [Qods] from the claws of the usurper Israel.

The resolution finally calls on the officials of the state scientific, cultural, and publicity organs to confront the cultural onslaughts of the enemy by all-round, principled planning and avoid any expediency [maslahat andishi] in the campaign against America.

Demands Ends to U.S. 'Terrorism'

LD0411184793 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—The U.S. can have relations with Iran only on the condition that Washington quit international terrorism and violations of the rights of world people and respect human rights, the Majles speaker said here Thursday. "Death to the U.S. will continue to be the slogan chanted in Islamic Iran as long as the U.S. maintains its policy of savagery towards other countries of the world," Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said. The Majles speaker was addressing thousands of Tehranis demonstrating in front of the former U.S. Embassy to mark the 14th anniversry of its takeover by a group of revolutionary students.

Nateq-Nuri termed the 1979 occupation of the U.S. den of espionage by Muslim students following the imam's path as a "great, divine" move which he said broke the myth of U.S. invincibility. The resistance of people throughout the world to Washington's aggressive policies is the result of lessons they have learnt from the Islamic revolution of Iran, he said. The Majles speaker also lashed out at the U.S. for its efforts to suppress popular movements in Iraq, Somalia and Haiti, accusing Washington of exploiting the U.N. and its Security Council as instruments for this purpose.

Iran's backing down from its anti-U.S. policies would mean turning away from Islamic values and weakness of the revolution, Nateq-Nuri pointed out. He called on Iranian college students and professors to conduct research on global arrogance and its deceitful moves around the world and to reveal tactics of confronting arrogance to world people. Elimination of liberal persons from scenes of the revolution and disclosure of Washington's aggressive nature were among the achievements of the embassy takeover for the country, he said.

At the end of the ceremony attended by a group of political and religious personalities, the U.S. flag was set on fire.

Similar rallies were staged nationwide on the occasion of 13th of Aban (4th of November) which also marks the exile to Turkey of the late Imam Khomeyni in 1964 by the former regime of Iran and killing of several students on Tehran University campus in 1979 by the military forces of the former regime.

Velayati: U.S. Wants To Impose Western Values

LD0411171093 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov. Nov. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today that the U.S. intends to impose Western cultural values on other nations by projecting that the genuine culture and civilization of these nations have nothing to offer.

Velayati, speaking on the national day of campaign against global arrogance, said, "a generation raised under the influence of Western cultural values, would never be able to campaign against the U.S. and Israel. Therefore, we want to preserve our young generation with its genuine values," he added.

Elsewhere in his speech he referred to the U.N. policy of controlling arms in countries, and said the objective is to prevent industrial progress.

"Every country which wants to purchase conventional weapons, must inform the U.N. of its intention, a move which is claimed to be for the benefit of the world peace. But in reality the idea is to gain the necessary information on the defensive power of the countries," he added.

However, the Islamic Republic of Iran has time and again announced that it opposes nuclear weapons, and that such weapons must be destroyed.

Administration Said To Cancel Demonstrations

PM0411161693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "For First Time in 14 Years, Tehran Cancels Yearly Demonstration on Anniversary of Occupying U.S. Embassy"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources in Tehran said yesterday that the Iranian leadership has decided to cancel the demonstrations scheduled to be staged throughout the country on the 14th anniversary of the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and the holding of those inside as hostages.

This dramatic incident, which occurred on 4 November 1979, forced the government of Mehdi Bazargan to resign and led to the seizure of power by the mullahs under Khomeyni. Since then, the event has been an important date in the Iranian "revolutionary" calendar, on which government-organized demonstrations are staged to celebrate it.

The authorities have offered no official explanation for the decision to cancel the demonstrations.

A spokesman for the revolutionary committee which is still controlling the Embassy building said yesterday that schools from several schools will visit the building tomorrow on an "educational tour."

The U.S. Embassy complex is situated in a crowded part of the Iranian capital. It has become a shrine for hardliners from all over the world, who come to visit the building and offer the rites of allegiance to Khomeyni's memory.

But analysts in Tehran believe that the cancellation of the demonstrations is partly attributable to the government's fear of a reduction in the numbers participationg. It is noted that the number of participants in the traditional demonstrations tends to shrink every year. Last year only a few hundred Revolutionary Guard members and their families participated in a gathering around the embassy building. The decision to play down the importance of this anniversary is maybe an indication that the leadership wants to bring about some balance after weeks of escalating propaganda campaigns against the United States.

It seems that the "supreme guide," 'Ali Khamene'i, has firmly intervened against any attempt to initiate an early dialogue with Washington—which completely conflicts with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy based on calm diplomacy and the establishment of dialogue between the two sides.

Commentary Urges Students To Defend Revolution

LD0411151393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Events and incidents, both important and unimportant, bitter and sweet, pass by, and what remains are memories, which are recorded in history books. The recording of these events acquires more importance when forecasters examine and investigate them, and benefit from these experiences, thus enbling them to give shape to the future. [passage omitted]

In the history of the Iranian nation, 4 November is a destiny-making day. Three very important events took place on that day. A study of these events is important in the sense that it can have a profound impact on the direction of the path followed by the Iranian nation and our Islamic system. On such a day, the tyranical monarchical regime exiled the departed imam—may his soul be admitted to paradise—to Turkey. The mercenaries of the Pahlavi regime attacked Tehran University and martyred a number of students. Also on this day, the students, following the line of the imam, occupied the Den of Espionage in Tehran.

Naming such a day as the National Day of Struggle Against Global Arrogance is perhaps the best choice, since in all three incidents, two contradictory fronts can be observed. On one side we can see the Muslim people of Iran, the university elite of this nation, and finally, the great and departed leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran—may his soul be accepted in paradise. And, on the other side, we see America, the lackey Pahlavi regime, and its mercenaries.

On the first front the Iranian nation is intent on achieving its Islamic aspirations through struggle, offering blood, and accepting its esteemed leaders going into exile. On the other front, America and its domestic agents, with their deadly methods—coercion, exile, espionage and interference in the internal affairs of Iran—are trying to keep Iran under America's domination.

Although America's relations with the Muslim people of Iran throughout this period before the victory of the revolution was based on contradiction and opposition, some people, or frightened groups still insist that this relationship is not one-sided.

One of the most important reasons for the defeat of the movement for the nationalization of our country's oil industry in the early fifties was that some of the leaders of that movement mistakenly believed that they could simultaneously have a rational and equal relationship with America, within the framework of the preservation of national independence. But the coup d'etat of 19 August 1953, which was plotted and carried out by America's intelligence organization, the CIA, and also the support given by America to the Pahlavi regime until the victory of the Islamic revolution, undermined this point of view, and everyone believed that for as long as America supported hegemonistic methods, the establishment of relations with it would be to the detrimen of other countries.

The occupation of America's Den of Espionage in Tehran in 1979 stems from the new belief that it was achieved at the cost of the martyrdom of the best loved persons of this nation. The action taken by the students following the line of the imam was extraordinarily important in one of its dimensions in that, as the leader of the Islamic revolution said: It served the Islamic revolution in an invaluable way and cut the last possible link between the revolution and America.

Since then the Americans have been trying to restore that thin, severed thread, and to impose their wishes by this means, thus fulfilling their objectves.

Naturally, this great political and independence-seeking movement, which occured on 4 November 1979, and which the departed imam termed as greater than the first Revolution [10-11 February 1979], will be perpetual when all stratas of the people of Iran have an active presence in the arena of political decision-making and in defending the country's independence in the face of international hegemonists.

In the midst of this, students, as the most important cultural and political elements in society, have to shoulder more responsibility. The revolution will not be protected from the injuries of the enemies' plots until such times when the academic strata use their knowledge and information to preserve national independence and to elevate the Islamic system.

Mahdavi-Kani Urges Majles To Address Corruption

LD0411180193 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Secretary of the Society of Combatant Ulema (Rohaniyat-e Mobarez), Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani said that Majles should encounter extravagancy, bribery and embezzlement of public property. Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani in an interview with the latest issue of 'MAJLES AND RESEARCH' magazine said that even if the government is competent and committed, its performance must still be evaluated.

On debating the second five-year development plan in Majles, Mahdavi-Kani advised Majles deputies to carefully review the first five-year development plan and its deficiencies before debating the second plan. He said in reviewing the second five-year development plan cultural, scientific, religious, revolutionary and moral principles should be taken into consideration.

On foreign policy, the ayatollah said that the campaign against Zionism and hegemony of oppressors should be vigorously continued.

He added at the present juncture, Iran must maintain a balanced relation with Islamic countries especially those in the region to deprive the world arrogance of any chance to launch a poisonous propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Export Figures Given for First 7 Months of Year

LD0311175993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] During the first seven months of the current year [21 March-22 October], the export of steel and iron products reached 1,120,000 tonnes. The Islamic Republic of Iran's customs announced that this figure indicates an increase of 752 percent in weight as well as a 727 percent increase in value in comparison to figures for the same period a year ago.

Also 3,459,000 tonnes of non-oil products were exported during the same period with a total value of 146,000 million rials, which means 98 percent increase in weight and 43 percent increase in value compared to figures for a similar period last year.

Tehran Militant Clerics Association Meets

NC0511075193 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] The Tehran Militant Clerics Association held a meeting last night.

The Public Relations and Propaganda Department of the Tehran Militant Clerics Association announced that following a decision by the esteemed leader on the need for its presence and its political and press activities, the Tehran Militant Clerics Association held a meeting last night with the participation of the majority of its members.

During this meeting, views were exchanged on domestic and foreign problems. Also, the problems faced by the Association's political activities and presence were discussed and decisions were made.

Mohtashemi Discusses Israeli-PLO Accord

NC0411115393 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 17 Oct 93 p 8

[First installment of a three-part "exclusive" interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—punctuation as published]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] As an ambassador [to Syria in the early eighties], you had good relations with the Arab revolutionaries. Many think you should now give us a precise analysis of the PLO-Israeli peace accord and the process that led to it.

In view of your record of struggle in this context, we would like to hear your views on the grounds used to achieve this accord.

[Mohtashemi] There are several aspects to this question, but I think this peace is a multilateral compromise, "a compromise among all the Arab and even Islamic countries with Israel."

Sometimes, peace between two conflicting sides is achieved through a series of specific incidents between the two countries concerned and through the emergence of a situation in which there is a conqueror and a conquered, the conquered side being forced into a compromise. There are also cases in which there is no conqueror or conquered and the reason for compromise is the strength of the sides involved. The conflicting sides reach a point where they are equal in strength both militarily and as far as advanced weapons are concerned or when one side has a strong and trained force while the other side is equipped with modern weapons. In this case, both sides sense that no matter how much they fight

and no matter how much they protract the war, they will not reach a point where there will be a conqueror and a conquered and that they cannot impose their view and their policies on the other side. So, they prefer to prevent a war of attrition in which their resources will be wasted and their country's progress hindered and reach a bilateral peace accord.

But as far as the topic of the day!!!, the PLO-Israeli compromise, is concerned, this is not only a peace and compromise between an Arab country and Israel. It is an extremely disgraceful compromise between all the Arab governments and Israel. This is the path that the PLO and 'Arafat personally have opened up. We cannot view or assess the compromise deal within the framework of current conditions. The compromise pact is the outcome of a series of overtures, plots, and long-term policies from the past. Also, we should remember that the population and growing economic strength of the Arab countries facing Israel cannot be compared with the population and economic strength of the occupying regime.

Let us look at a chart comparing the population of "Arabs and Muslims" with the population of the "Jews living in Palestine and Jews throughout the world." This chart shows that the Arab population of the world is 300 million, that world Muslims number 1 billion, that the Jews living in Palestine number 4 million, and that the total population of Jews throughout the world is 15 million. These numbers are approximate.

In view of this chart, you can easily understand that there can never be any type of demographic equilibrium between the Arabs and the Israelis living in Palestine. The great difference can also be seen when looking at the total number of Muslims and the total number of Jews worldwide.

Of course, we can find particular people in the Israeli rule who do not come within the same category as the rest of those who form the Zionist regime and these are the people with a specific theory of racism.

As for arms and war materiel, we cannot accept that the Arabs are weaker than the usurping Israeli regime, because all the Arab countries put together are equipped with the most advanced weapons. There are more of these weapons than those owned by Israel.

So, we can now easily clarify that what led to this compromise could not be economic or military strength and arms, because we have seen extremely great military potential and strength among the Arab countries. "The victory of the Arabs over Israel in the glorious 1973 war and the various military movements we saw in small parts of a country such as south Lebanon" are among the instances that show the increasing and spectacular strength of the side that is "confronting" Israel. During the past couple of months, there was a clash between Hizballah and Israel. For one week, Israel used all its strength and might to crush the Islamic Resistance and Hizballah. It bombed and shelled south Lebanon from the air, land, and sea. And ultimately, Israel accepted the "cease-fire" and "declared defeat." It is extremely disgraceful for Israel to "accept a cease-fire and declare defeat," an Israel that we have repeatedly witnessed rejecting cease-fires with big Arab powers unless it has received many concessions in return.

But when the Islamic Resistance shows its genuine self in a brave operation and in a spectacular defense, we immediately see Israel withdraw.

The point is that all these instances show a great power and strength that we are witnessing in the world of Islam and in the Arab areas.

When the power of Islam in a small country from the big Arab world is so great, then the heads of the Arab countries cannot claim that they did not have the strength to confront Israel and were forced into a compromise.

In this connection, I should say that incomplete information has been given to us about the PLO-Tel Aviv compromise and the behind-the-scenes cooperation between the Arabs and Israel in recent years.

The participants in the "Black Monday" ceremonies—when the PLO-Tel Aviv accord was signed at the White House—revealed a 10-year process in the making by American agents.

The invitations to people like Carter, Reagan, and Bush as former presidents of the United States, former Israeli Prime Minister Begin [as published], who was part of the wretched Camp David triangle, as well as Jihan, the widow of Anwar al-Sadat, Egypt's deceased president, who was also part of the same sinister triangle, marked the end of the beginning of an old plot.

The process of hatching this plot started before the intifadah and continued. Before the intifadah, the West, America, and Israel pursued the plot of having the region's Arabs recognize Israel as a government, one that could receive concessions and be able to expand.

From the point of view of the Israeli statesmen, this illegitimate regime would never, under any circumstances, recognize Palestine and the Palestinians. And any sign of Palestine and the Palestinians, inside or outside Palestine, should be destroyed so that no danger would threaten the future of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

On this basis, the Israeli statesmen did not agree that a country named Palestine—whether inside Palestine or abroad—should be recognized. Even two years ago, when the topic was raised at the Madrid conference—the first Arab-Israeli meeting—Israel claimed that no Palestinian should be included in the Jordanian delegation. After discussion, they finally agreed that residents of "Gaza and the West Bank" could include their representatives in the Jordanian delegation. So, the Zionist regime was not ready to accept a Palestinian presence even to this extent at home or abroad. What happened to make Israel now accept the Palestine-PLO combination?

Did some human traits suddenly appear in Israel?!! Or is there another motive? An undeniable fact that everybody knows is that the intifadah is a reason behind Israel coming to terms with the PLO.

For six years now, the uprising and the self-ebullient movement with Islamic tendencies and no dependencies has been operating inside the occupied territories. The reason for the steadfastness of the intifadah is, first, that it is not dependent and, second, it has an Islamic nature. This is because if a movement has ideological, financial, political, military, or arms dependence on a foreign power or government outside the borders of Palestine, the enemy can paralyze the movement through pressure on the power or government. Something we will see, today or tomorrow, in some countries, namely in Lebanon, is a resistance by the intifadah movement and an uprising supported by the people who are standing alone without any material dependence on the outside world, on countries outside occupied Palestine—Arab and non-Arab or European—and they are exerting efforts by relying on their own strength.

They have not even sought arms, because arms and war material should be furnished from an outside country. They have risen with arms that they can get inside their own land; the weapons used in the intifadah are sticks and stones. The stronger use knives. It is difficult to confront such people because the enemy cannot find a country that is behind this movement to inflict its pressure to paralyze the movement. As long as there is such a weapon and such a method in Palestine, this will be the situation.

The West, America, and Israel have approached every government and country. They have worked on every organization to extinguish the flame of the intifadah inside Palestine, but in vain.

Israel and America have sensed that the flame of the intifadah cannot be extinguished, but burns brighter each day; it may not be long before this flame will paralyze the Israeli regime. It is on this basis that they decided willy-nilly to begin a retreat, which reveals Israel's vulnerability. The enemy is weak and helpless in front of the growing strength of the Muslims who are working conscientiously. Israel feels helpless about the intifadah, both militarily and politically, because it cannot extinguish this flame. There are many economic pressures on Israel. Big capitalists and companies are not investing in Israel. Companies do not invest in any field—industrial, agricultural, or so on—in crisis-ridden areas or in a vulnerable country like Israel, which is always facing uprising. No matter how much economic assistance or financial injections the West and America have given Israel, they have sensed that all this assistance has been like money dumped into a swamp; the more a country is swamped, the more money it needs and the quicker it will be destroyed.

We consider Israel's economic structure to be worse than any other country's. We see America alone injecting over $5 billion a year in Israel and extending aid to it gratis. In a bid to maintain Israel, the West has had to inject capital. But all this is in vain. Israeli factories are closing daily; they only generate losses.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Is this assistance continuing?

[Mohtashemi] Yes. America has extended tens of billions of dollars to Israel in gratis aid. During the past couple of years, America has extended a $10-billion loan to Israel gratis. This cannot continue for the West, America, and even the occupying regime, which should, sooner or later, be able to stand on its own two feet. How long can governments help it? How long will the peoples of these countries allow this situation to continue? They will get fed up one day and the process will stop under pressure from the world. To reconstruct the country and revive Israel's economy, the occupied territories and the Middle East should stop being a crisis region and tranquillity should be established.

So, to extinguish the intifadah, there was no alternative, but compromise. But this compromise, which should have been to the benefit of the Arabs and the Palestinians, has had the opposite effect because of the hireling nature of the Arab Palestinian leaders. The initial stages of the compromise started two years ago. America and Israel thought that if bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab countries started; if the Palestinian forces, that is, those on whom the intifadah depends, sense that the Arabs too have recognized Israel and come to terms with it; if the Palestinians, who shouldered the responsibility of the intifadah and fought courageously all these years, sense that the Arabs and the heads of Arab countries are coming to terms with Israel and recognizing the occupying regime, then they will sense that they are without support and alone and that their voices are falling on deaf ears among the Muslim nations and are only echoing back; they will naturally be terrified.

They thought that the Arab and Israel governments would recognize the usurping Israeli regime and that this would extinguish the flame of the intifadah and the Palestinians would give up. But this plan failed and so did the American-Israeli tactic. The intifadah steadfastly continued along its path and the Muslim Palestinians further intensified this movement, thanks to their religious and Islamic motives. Well, this disappointed the enemy, which started to seek new tactics; the more resistance inside Palestine increased while the Arab-Israeli talks were in progress, the more vulnerable the conferees who had hoped to extinguish the intifadah's flame became. The intifadah has made the talks and the Israeli Government that initiated them in a bid to morally crush the intifadah vulnerable.

Thus, the compromise process should have been altered, with the Israeli regime at least giving more concessions to the Palestinian side. Well, under such conditions, they had no alternative, but to grant concessions to the intifadah and to force it into a compromise. But the intifadah, with its Islamic nature and aspirations, does

not agree with a compromise. The intifadah is governed by Islamic forces such as Hamas and other Islamic groups. The strongest force—in addition to Hamas—is the Islamic Jihad. The various Islamic groups and some of the nationalist groups oppose the compromise. For example, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, which is led by Ahmad Jibril; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by George Habash; and the Democratic Front led by Nayif Hawatimah all oppose the peace process. Naturally, we cannot expect the groups that are not Islamic-motivated, such as George Habash's group and the Democratic Front, or Christian, Communist, or other groups, to have the same motives as the Islamic intifadah. These groups may submit to compromise under threats. But they have resisted well and have refused. So far so good. But if they accept compromise, we will not accept them.

The formation that opposes 'Arafat, the PLO, and the compromise consists of 10 groups. Groups that have Islamic motives can never give in to compromise. To do so, they should either distance themselves from Islam or remove the word Islam from their titles and give in to compromise, because a Muslim can never accept his country and his respect being sold off and gambled on by Zionists, Americans, or the West.

Under the prevailing conditions, Israel can never come to terms with the intifadah, because the intifadah wants all of Palestine. It wants an Islamic Palestinian rule throughout the entire territory of Palestine or at least in the Gaza Strip, the entire West Bank of Jordan, and in Jerusalem. This is the least they demand, because all true Palestinian Muslims demand that the entire country of Palestine be returned intact to the Palestinians and be governed by the Palestinians—Muslims, Christians, and Jews, that is, Jews whose ancestry dates back 100 years.

The only alternative left for Israel was to establish a link with the PLO and make empty promises to the Palestinians so that the Islamic zeal and enthusiasm of the Palestinians inside Palestine would die. Of course, this is what the West and Israel have been doing for the past 50-60 years and each time they have faced an impasse, the Jews and the Westerners have resorted to political tactics and activity to crush the Palestinians' movement. [passage omitted]

'Arafat now wants to help the Jews dominate Palestine and wants to recognize them. The people of Palestine should join hands and throw 'Arafat out of their ranks so that they can do what is necessary. As long as there is one Jew in Palestine, they should resist, as we did. The Israelis are now helplessly trying to promote 'Arafat because he believes that the Jews can be next to the Palestinians at a time when there should be no Jew there. The people should stand up and resist so that, God willing, everything will be set straight. God willing, everything will be put right. [passage omitted]

Today, to crush and neutralize the intifadah and save themselves from the rage of the Muslim Palestinians, Israel and America have no alternative, but to use 'Arafat. This was the reason for starting the secret talks a year ago, which ultimately led to the PLO-Israeli compromise and revealed the disgraceful face of the PLO and 'Arafat in dealing with Israel when they placed everything at Israel's disposal and when they accepted all of Israel's conditions in return for self-rule in a very small area on the West Bank of Jordan (Jericho). Well, in return for this concession, the Palestinians should now confront each other. Israel could save its armed forces from Gaza and Jericho and take an experimental step by establishing 'Arafat's police force there.

If, in Gaza, they can crush the intifadah with 'Arafat's Palestinian forces, then they will repeat this experiment somewhere else. They also handed over a small area on the West Bank, which they called Jericho, where they will experiment to see if they can throw the Palestinians at each other's throats and neutralize themselves and if ultimately the Palestinian people will accept Israel and Israel's plans.

The Muslims sense that the behavior of their Palestinian brothers has been much harsher than Israel's. During the implementation process of the compromise deal, one part of the people may seek their own well-being and think that now that their areas are being supported and invested in, they too can be absorbed by the world. But those who will remain and resist will be identified and crushed; this is the gist of the plot.

But why did 'Arafat and the group that accepted the compromise plan do so? Because of the political mistakes that 'Arafat and the PLO have committed since the victory of the Islamic revolution—both in relation with Iraq's imposed war on Iran, when they supported Saddam, and in relation with the hostile political movements that they resorted to in international organizations and Arab countries against Iran. A propaganda campaign was sparked off against the Islamic revolution and, because of his stance, 'Arafat received more financial aid from the heads of reactionary Arab regimes who also supported Saddam. But this revealed 'Arafat's face in the world of Islam, and he was identified as a good-for-nothing peddler after money and personal gain. But he became popular with the heads of reactionary Arab regimes and also achieved material gain, which made him haughty. [passage omitted]

I was the Iranian ambassador in Damascus in 1981. During a series of talks that were held in Iran, it was decided that Iran should act as the financial and economic backbone of revolutionary and armed movements of the Palestinian guerrillas against Israel. As Iran's representative, I was assigned to hold talks with 'Arafat. In the winter of 1981, I went to Beirut and asked for a meeting with 'Arafat at his command center there. The meeting took place. 'Arafat was very warm and sincere. I briefed him on the stances of the Islamic revolution and told him that we would meet all the needs of the

combatant Palestinian forces in any military or jihad operation they carried out against Israel. I assured him that we would help as much as necessary until the Palestinian people vindicated their just right. I told him that as a first step we would open an account for the operations of the Palestinian guerrillas against the regime occupying Jerusalem. The account would remain open as support for these operations and other activities. I asked him to tell us what budget would be required and said that money could be drawn from the account with two signatures—those of the Islamic Republic's representative and of 'Arafat. Do you know what 'Arafat's answer was? He said: We don't need your budget. Do you want to help Palestine and the PLO or not? If you do, deposit the money in our account and if you don't, then don't. He said: All the Arab countries are helping us, and they don't ask us what we do with the money they give us. We have many expenses, one of them for operational purposes. If you want to help, we will give you our bank account number and you can deposit the money there.

So, first, 'Arafat slyly negated the armed struggle against Israel and, second, he did not discuss any specific anti-Israeli operations; he practically refused the Islamic Republic's assistance. He showed his true face and that he is not a combatant. [passage omitted]

But even though this was the true face of 'Arafat and the PLO, and the imam too realized this, the Islamic Republic and the imam always extended political support.

'Arafat is lying. To justify selling his soul in this gamble, he has no alternative, but to alter the face of a series of realities.

The Arab countries may not have helped the revolution and the liberation of Palestine, but they have definitely guaranteed the life of the PLO and 'Arafat.

President on Problems Facing Third World

LD0411153593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave a speech today at a gathering of participants in the 15th general assembly and conference of the East Regional Organization of Public Administration. Stressing the need to pay greater attention to sustained growth throughout the world, especially in Third World countries, the president described the lack of planning and forecasting, and the concentration placed on daily affairs as one of the problems facing these countries in implementing their goals of growth and advancement. [passage omitted]

Stressing that the lack of management in Third World countries is basically due to the weakness of management in developed countries, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Many of the difficulties facing Third World countries are due to their exploitation by developed countries. If sustained growth cannot be achieved in those countries, one should look at the various elements that have been responsible for this situation. Third World countries and this conference should make greater efforts to resolve these problems. [passage omitted]

Velayati Receives Lithuanian Official

LD0311193693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Lithuania met with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon. During the meeting the resumption of political ties and bilateral cooperation were discussed.

The Lithuanian deputy foreign minister expressed pleasure over the resumption of the two countries' ties and described that as important for his country.

Mr. Velayati expressed his pleasure over the independence of Lithuania, referred to the resources and capabilities of the two countries, and declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness for mutual cooperation.

Germany's Kinkel Cited on Iran's Importance

LD0411145093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] German Foreign Minister Kinkel stressed in Amman yesterday that the Islamic Republic of Iran is an actual and very important political and economic power in the region and that he believes that it should not be isolated.

Klaus Kinkel pointed to the recent U.S. and British officials' criticism of Bonn on expansion of his country's ties with Tehran, saying that the position of Germany toward Iran is different from that of the United States.

Meanwhile, he added his country's position does not mean that Germany agrees with Iran's policies.

The German foreign minister, who has visited Saudi Arabia before his trip to Jordan, said: Saudi and Jordanian officials have expressed their concern over the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its influence in the region, especially its rejection of the plan related to the Middle East.

German Man Released After Kinkel Intervention

LD0411164893 Hamburg DPA in German 1258 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—German businessman Gerhard Bachmann who was arrested around a month ago in Tehran has been released. This was confirmed by the [German] Foreign Ministry today in answer to an inquiry. However, the 56-year-old representative of the

engineering concern MAN cannot leave Iran for the time being. He has to await a possible trial.

This step by the Iranian authorities follows intervention by Federal Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who called for the immediate release of Bachmann. State Secretary Dieter Kastrup negotiated with government offices in Tehran.

Bachmann was arrested for alleged unauthorized contact with the army and for bribery and espionage. He has lived in Iran since 1984 and is seen as one of the most respected members of the German community there. He also sits on the committee of the German-Iranian chamber of trade and is also active on behalf of the German school and the Protestant community in Tehran.

The fate of the German engineer, Helmut Szimkus, condemned to death in Iran for spying for Iraq is, on the other hand, still unclear. Kinkel has interceded on Szimkus' behalf several times and has called for the lifting of the death sentence. The German building contracter Paul-Dietrich Fersch who has been held in Iran since 1991 was able to return to Germany at the beginning of October following intensive efforts on the part of the German Government.

IRNA Reports Release of German

LD0411195593 Tehran IRNA in English 1912 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—German national Gerhard Bachmann was released on bail here today. He was arrested here on October 9 on charges of unauthorized contacts with militarymen, dissemination of classified information and bribing. The office of the Military Court state attorney said in a communique here Thursday that until a subsequent decision Bachmann is denied exit from Iran and must remain within the radius of the jurisdiction of Tehran.

It added that the proceedings and the results of the state action against him would be subsequently published for public information.

UN Envoy Calls For 'Immediate' Steps in Karabakh

NC0511062593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has called on the UN Security Council to take immediate steps to confront the crisis in the Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Kamal Kharrazi, our country's permanent representative at the UN, met with the president of the UN Security Council yesterday. After briefing the Security Council president on the latest situation in the Karabakh region and on the Azeri refugees, he asked him to take immediate steps.

Last week the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan, and Turkey called for the convening of a UN Security Council session to study the Karabakh crisis.

Supreme Court Head Leads Delegation to Pakistan

LD0511113593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Leading a high-ranking judicial delegation, the head of our country's Supreme Court, Ayatollah Moqtada'i, left for Pakistan this morning.

Before his departure he spoke to our correspondent explaining the aims of his visit. He said: While meeting high ranking judiciary officials of Pakistan to exchange views on legal and judicial issues of bilateral interest, the Islamic Republic of Iran's judicial delegation will also follow up the decisions made during negotiations held last year between the high-ranking judiciary officials of Iran and Pakistan in Tehran.

He added: In order to strengthen ties between the judicial departments of Islamic and neighboring countries and familiarization with Pakistan's judicial system and the transfer of our useful experiences, we will also meet and confer with local and judicial officials of the cities of Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.

Mr. Moqtada'i said another aim of his visit was to achieve a judicial and legal agreement that can safeguard human rights on the basis of Islamic and humanitarian principles and a common judicial and legal method to confront narcotics smugglers and merchants of death.

Ayatollah Moqtada'i also said that he will meet the heads of Pakistan's three branches, and will convey a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Pakistani president and prime minister.

*Owner of ABRAR Announces Intention To Sell

94LA0011J London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Oct 93 p 8

[Text] The licensed owner of ABRAR newspaper announced his intention to sell this newspaper and has asked the Ministry of Guidance to find a qualified person to buy it.

Ghafur Garshashi, the head of ABRAR, sent a letter to Hamadan, the director general of domestic press of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, requesting that the ministry introduce to him a person who will be able to operate the newspaper in every respect.

The licensed owner of ABRAR has not announced the reason for his decision. The employees of ABRAR, who were very surprised by this decision, regard the reason to be the serious differences between the editorial board and the licensed owner of this newspaper.

*Disagreements on Phone Rates Leave Public Puzzled

94LA0011B London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] The Economic Council and the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone have each set a different rate for telephone calls in Iran, and people now do not know the basis of which rate they are to pay their telephone bills.

From 1 Mehr [23 Sep], the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone is supposed to increase the rate of each telephone call from Rls [rials] 8 to Rls12. The above-mentioned ministry says this increase is because of offering new services to the customers.

In the meantime, the Plan and Budget Organization has announced that the rate of each telephone call will be Rls10. The rate of telephone calls had increased up to Rls8 since 21 March this year. Concerning the special services that are supposed to be offered with this increase, the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone has provided no explanation. The announcement of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone emphasized that the rate of intercity telephone calls will be calculated at half the price of daytime calls from 2000 PM to 0700.

*Appointments Announced in Various Offices

Veterinary Official Appointed

94LA0021C Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] By order of Mr. Foruzesh, minister of the reconstruction crusade, Dr. 'Abbas'ali Matlabi was appointed chief of the National Veterinary Organization. In this order, thanks and praise were given for the services of Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Shafi'ipur, the aforementioned organization's former chief, who was sent abroad for continued study.

*Education, Foreign Officials Named

94LA0021B Tehran SALAM in Persian 12 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] In separate decrees, 'Ali Akbar Rahmani, chief of the National Registry Organization, appointed Ehsanpur Menati as general manager of the registry for foreign affairs and Salar Kamari as deputy director for education at this center's center for education.

Likewise, in a separate order he appointed Engineer Khalil-Aqa'i as chief of the province of Ardebil Reconstruction Crusade Organization. It is necessary to note that he was formerly chief of the Central Province Reconstruction Crusade Organization.

*Health, Construction Officials Named

94LA0016E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 6 October 93 p 4

[Text] Dr. Marandi, the minister of health, treatment and medical education, selected Dr. Shafiqeh Rahideh as his adviser for pharmaceutical and medical equipment affairs.

Engineer Foruzesh, the minister of construction jihad, in a decree appointed Engineer Ahmad Aqa Torknezhad deputy for projects and planning of this ministry.

In separate decrees by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian, the representative of the religious guardian and of the Martyrs Foundation, Messrs. 'Ebadi and Hudgar were appointed as the director general of the Martyrs Foundation for Greater Tehran and the director general for provisions and services of the Martyrs Foundation, respectively.

In a decree by Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, the minister of culture and higher education, Dr. Seyyed Mohammad E'temadi was appointed president of the Sharif Industrial University and began his duties.

In separate decrees by Dr. Mohammad Soleymani, the deputy for student affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Dr. 'Abdollah Afshar, Dr. 'Abdolmajid Hadidi, and Dr. Rahmatollah Rahimi were appointed as the director general for grants and students abroad, the director general of the Coordination Office for supervisory offices abroad, and the director of the Students' Office, respectively, and assumed their duties.

*Education, Housing Officials Named

94LA0016B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 22 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] The public relations office of the Ministry of Education reported in a decree issued by Dr. Najafi, that Mohsen Habib was appointed director general of the Coordination of Development Plans and Projects Office.

In decrees issued by Engineer Tabataba'i, deputy minister of housing and urban development and general manager of the Urban Land Organization, the following appointments were made:

Engineer Naser Armanpanah, as the implementer of the revitalization project of East Esfahan.

Engineer Reza Mosaddeq, as the implementer of the Yazd western township.

Mirhadi Omrani, as the implementer of the tourist residential township of Sheykh Vali of Tabriz.

A report by the public relations office of the Plan and Budget Organization indicates that in separate decrees, Mr. Mohammad Mahbubi-Azgami was appointed as the head of the Society and Human Resources Office of this organization and began his duties [as published].

General 'Ali Reza Afshar, the commander of the resistance forces of the Guard Corps mobilization, issued a decree appointing 2d Brigadier Gen. 'Ali Reza Tamizi the acting commander of Mobilization Resistance Headquarters.

In a decree by Engineer Foruzesh, the minister of construction jihad, Dr. 'Abbas 'Ali Motallebi was appointed head of the National Veterinary Organization.

Based on decrees issued by Dr. Marandi, the minister of health, treatment and medical education, Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Jazayeri was appointed council to the minister and Mehdi Sheyesteh-Majd director general of the Office of the Ministry.

In a decree by the general manager of the Postal Company, Jamshid Khosravi was appointed as the director general of post for Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Seyyed Reza Lesani, the technical and operational deputy director of Iranian railroads, issued a decree appointing Seyyed Zia'eddin Pezeshki director general of railroads, buildings, and lines.

*Education, University Officials Named

94LA0016D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 29 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, the minister of culture and higher education, issued separate decrees appointing Dr. 'Ali Akbar Salehi, Dr. Seyyed Hoseyn Mir-Fakhra'i, and Engineer Esma'il Avini as the educational deputy minister, director general of the Office of Scientific and International Cooperation, and council to the minister for planning and development affairs, respectively. He also conferred the presidency of Tehran University on Dr. Gholam'ali Afruz and the supervision of Shahid Bahonar University in Kerman on Dr. Ahmad Akbari.

In separate decrees, Dr. 'Ali Reza Marandi, as the minister of health, treatment and medical education, and Dr. Hoseyn Malek-Afzali and Dr. Morteza Azarnush, as the deputy for health affairs of the ministry and the head of the Pasteur Institute, respectively, were appointed.

The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution elected Engineer Seyyed Mostafa Mirsalim, who has been a member of the council since 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990], as the secretary general of this council.

According to a decree by Engineer Mohammad Karampur, the general manager and chairman of the board of directors of the postal company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Hoseyn Faryabi, while retaining his position in charge of the national postal codification project, was appointed as the director general of the Studies and Planning Office of the postal company.

Upon the suggestion of Gen. Mas'ud Kiyumarsi, the director of the Criminal Investigation Office of Tehran, and the approval of the commander of Greater Tehran Security Zone, Colonel Keyhani was appointed as the 1st deputy, Col. Shah Hoseyni as the financial and administrative deputy, and Hasan Rajabi as the head of the Inspection Office of the Tehran Criminal Investigation Office.

*Further Education Appointments

94LA0021A Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] By order of Dr. Hashemi-Golpaygani, minister of culture and higher education: Dr. Gholam'ali Afruz was appointed president of Tehran University, Dr. Ahmad Akbari was appointed supervisor of Martyr Bahonar University of Kerman, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Salehi was appointed deputy minister of culture and higher education, Dr. Seyyed Hasan Mir Fakhra'i was appointed consultant to the minister and general manager of the General Office of Academic and International Cooperation, and Engineer Esma'il Adini was appointed consultant to the minister for development and planning affairs.

In a separate letter Dr. Hashemi-Golpaygani gave praise and thanks for the work and service of Dr. Rahimian, 'Ali Asghar Rostami, and Abu-Sa'idi, former presidents of Tehran, Martyr Bahonar and Kerman universities.

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education also announced the following appointments: Dr. 'Ali Akbar Sayari, deputy minister and chief of the Institute for Research and Planning, Dr. Seyyed Ahmad Mo'tamedi, deputy minister and chief of the Iran Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Dr. Gholamhoseyn Rahimi, deputy minister and chief of the National Education Evaluation Organization, Dr. Mohammad Reza 'Aref, consultant to the minister for educational affairs, and Hasan Sadeqlu, consultant to the minister and general manager of the ministry office, all of whom retained their positions.

Pakistan

U.S. Official's Visit To Provide 'Opportunities'

BK0411101293 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Nov 93 p 1, 14

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 3: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphael's three-day visit to Pakistan from Nov 7 would provide the first contact of the new government with the Clinton administration, said a Foreign Office spokesman here on Wednesday.

"It will be helpful in enhancing understanding of each other's points of view on various issues," said the spokesman during a weekly briefing to the Press.

According to him, Ms Raphael, who is in charge of South Asian Affairs in the US Department of State, is paying her annual visit to the region. She will be visiting Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia and some Central Asian states. "The creation of a separate Bureau

for South Asia reflects the U.S. administration's interest in the region," stated the spokesman, who said that senior State Department officials undertook such visits to areas of which they were in charge.

"Exchanges between Pakistan and the United States provide welcome opportunities to exchange views on matters of mutual interest," said the spokesman, elaborating that during Ms Raphael's visit, the current state of Pakistan-U.S. bilateral relations, regional and international issues, including the Kashmir dispute, were likely to be discussed.

Commenting on the Oct 30 statement of a senior State Department officials during a Press briefing in Washington, prior to Ms Raphael's tour of South Asia, the Foreign Office spokesman said the officials had "reiterated the already stated U.S. position that it regards Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory."

The spokesman added: "The statement merely asserts the legally correct and accepted position of Kashmir being a disputed territory. We, therefore, appreciate this reaffirmation of the U.S. position." He added that this was the first time that a senior official of the State Department had made such a statement in public. "Generally, most people agreed, especially the permanent members of the UN Security Council, when the Kashmir issue was discussed in the Security Council from 1948 to 1971, that the accession of Kashmir to India was not valid," he said.

Answering a question about the U.S. official's stress on nuclear nonproliferation which will form a "one-point agenda" of Ms Raphael's forthcoming discussions with Pakistan, the spokesman said it was not right to say that the US had a one-point agenda. "We are going to have a discussion on all bilateral issues, on all regional and international issues."

Nuclear non-proliferation would be "one of the items" to be discussed, stated the spokesman, who said Pakistan's position on the nuclear issue was based on very strong principles—our peaceful nuclear programme is aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of Pakistanis. "We suffer from serious energy shortage and the nature of Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme remains unchanged."

He added: "We remain committed to the objective on nuclear non- proliferation in South Asia, for which we have made several serious and constructive proposals which unfortunately have not yet received a positive response from India." The spokesman reiterated that Pakistan would continue to work sincerely for the establishment of an "equitable and non-discriminatory nuclear non-proliferation treaty" in this region.

Making clear that Pakistan would not accept any "unilateral conditions", the spokesman categorically stated that Pakistan would not foreclose its options as long as India continued its nuclear weapons programme". [passage omitted]

Bhutto Views Air Exercises, Comments on F-16's

BK0411154593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said her government will soon be taking a number of decisions to improve air defense capability of the country. She said this at PAF [Pakistan Air Force] base Rafiqi in Shorkot after witnessing exercise High Mark today. She described the show as impressive. She attended a briefing at Air Command Headquarters, Chaklala. The chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, received the prime minister at the headquarters. Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam Khan; Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Saeed Mohammad Khan were also present. The prime minister was briefed about the overall plan of the exercise and its aims and objectives.

The basic theme of the command-level exercise is to test in warlike conditions our concepts, equipments and techniques. It has been designed especially for the benfit of pilots, commanders and senior staff officers.

Later, the prime minister flew to Shorkot to witness the exercise. Defense Minister Mr. Aftab Shahban Mirani, the chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee and the three services chiefs accompanied the prime minister. The prime minister saw the air defense system and was told about the working and maneuverability of various aircraft. F-16, Mirage and F-7 aircraft in an air display. The exercise has been planned in three stages which include attack on defense, support to Army and weapons delivery. Combat aircraft of all types are taking part along with radars and ground-placed defense weapons. It is designed to enable the PAF to test itself in operations and evaluate its tactical concepts with a view to improve its overall capabilities. This exercise brings together all the combat elements to make them operate in an integrated manner. The exercise is being conducted on a competitive basis. The squadron achieving the best results would be awarded the coveted inter- squadron armament trophy.

In her interview with PTV [Pakistan Television], the prime minister also spoke about the deal of F-16 with the United States. She said the government is reviewing the deal and other options available. She said since the deal is tied up with the Pressler Amendment, our attempts are directed toward the lifting of the amendment.

Groups Stage Protests Against Hazratbal Siege

BK0411143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Various political, social, and educational, and women organizations have taken out processions in Rawalpindi and Islamabad today against the continuing siege of dargah [shrine] Hazratbal in occupied Kashmir. The participants raised anti-India slogans and demanded immediate lifting of siege of the holiest shrine

in Srinagar, which is encircled by occupation forces for the last 21 days. They urged the world community to help resolve the long- standing Kashmir problem according to the wishes of Kashmiris. The processions reached the Indian high commissioner's office in Islamabad where a memorandum was handed over to the official of the commission. The memorandum calls upon India to honor its commitment made at the United Nations regarding the plebiscite in occupied Kashmir.

Indian Firing on Kashmir Village 'Unprovoked'

BK0411090493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] A press release issued by the Armed Forces Public Relations Department says that Indian forces continued unprovoked and indiscriminate firing at Azad Kashmir villages from across the Line of Control. One person was killed as a result of firing and another person sustained bullet injuries in another separate incident. A complaint against the violation of the cease-fire in these two incidents has been lodged with the field station of the UN Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan.

Former President Khan Withdraws Nomination

BK0411154493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the country is moving toward a stable democratic system as a result of free and fair elections. He was talking to reporters after a meeting with former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. During the meeting, Leghari thanked the former president for withdrawing his candidacy for the presidential elections. Answering a question, the foreign minister said he feels that the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution should be abolished, leaving intact only certain clauses of this amendment. About provincial autonomy, he said there is a need for a further cut in the concentration of power at the federal level.

Answering questions, Ghulam Ishaq Khan said he withdrew his nomination papers according to his own will and no element of any bargaining is involved in this move. He said he has no intention of participating in politics at this time and that he will lead his life as an ordinary citizen. Acting President Wasim Sajjad also met Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this evening.

Sri Lanka

Two UNHCR Officials Held Hostage by LTTE

BK3110123893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0823 GMT 31 Oct 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Two officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] were reported being held hostage by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] on Saturday [30 October] at Vavuniya, about 180 km north of Colombo, a military spokesman told LANKAPUVATH on Sunday [31 October].

He said that the background to the detention of the officials was possibly due to the fact that the LTTE was preventing large number of villagers in refugee camps in areas around the control of the LTTE run by Non-Government Organizations [NGOs] wanting to move and being encouraged by the UNHCR to do so, into areas cleared of terrorists by government troops.

As a result, the LTTE had applied pressure on certain NGOs such as the UNHCR to provide rations to these villagers, although the NGOs were in favour of their moving into cleared areas which were under the control of the government and were being rehabilitated. According to reports, the LTTE was plundering part of those rations.

He said that the reported taking hostage of two UNHCR officials was a result of the NGO not yielding to LTTE pressure to supply rations to those villagers whom they were confining to areas under LTTE control, according to reports received by the military.

Meanwhile, in another incident which occurred on Friday [29 October], a UNHCR vehicle was detected at a military checkpoint attempting to smuggle banned goods to the north.

LTTE Said Using Prisoners To Clear Mine Fields

BK3110124093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] use the prisoners they hold secretly to clear mine fields laid by withdrawing security forces who captured the Kilali early this month. According to unconfirmed reports, some civilians from Jaffna who arrived in Colombo reported seeing a large number of screaming and protesting prisoners being driven by the LTTE in the area which were believed to contain mine fields. The prisoners, whose presence is being kept a secret from the world by the LTTE, are believed to number well over 500 including security forces personnel and political prisoners.

Editorial Decries Plight of Tamil Youths

BK0311134993 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 28 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Apprehensions of Trincomalee Tamils"]

[Text] A deplorable situation has been created today wherein the Tamil youths from Trincomalee also have to face the same difficulties that were undergone by the Tamil youths from the Northeast due to tough security measures there. The search and inquiry measures that have been intensified recently in Trincomalee have created apprehensions and anxiety amid the Tamil youths.

The incidents of illegal detention during search operations on Tamils, who are under the grip of poverty and leading a very simple life, have caused concern among trade unions. A large number of Tamils were arrested in a surprise police search operation in some parts of Nuwara Eliya a few days ago. The trade unions from Trincomalee have claimed that those arrested were estate workers and their children. Minister S. Thondaman, who is the president of the Ceylon Workers Congress—CWC—and the leader representing a large number of people from Trincomalee, has expressed concern over the arrest of innocent estate workers in the guise of search operations. He has also asked the authorities concerned to halt such operations.

A majority of the people from Trincomalee are living in poverty. So far, the hardships of the estate workers have not been overcome by any government in the country nor by any organization that represents the region. On the other hand, their suffering has multiplied after the estate administration was taken over by individuals. It is really a pity that these estate workers, who are struggling hard to eke out their living, have to face such ordeals during search operations. Because of the question of citizenship, a majority of the Tamils in Trincomalee are not able yet to get national identity cards. Many people even do not have proper documents. The arrest of Tamils there for the sole reason that they do not have identity cards is not justifiable in any way. How can one justify the demand for producing identity cards when proper steps have not been taken so far to issue new identity cards to those in Trincomalee who were robbed of their cards during the days when Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—JVP—had unleashed a reign of terror?

Even the security measures that have been undertaken in the capital of Colombo in recent days have caused inconvenience to the Trincomalee Tamils youths living there. They have been subjected to a situation wherein they have to live in constant fear and hiding just because they are Tamils. The youths, who have lost faith in the estate enterprise and come to Colombo to earn their livelihood, are living in constant fear today. They are not in a position to go to any part of the country and work. It is imperative on the part of the government to take all necessary steps to protect the people of Indian origin, who have been living in Trincomalee for generations together, from any torture during such security operations. Nobody can deny the fact that the tough measures undertaken in the Northeast during the past only gave rise to the racist tendencies and the adverse situation today. Now, it is the occasion for all to understand that Trincomalee also should not be led to such a situation.

Editorial Views 'Pathetic' Conditions in East

BK0311094793 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 20 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: The Condition of People in Eastern Province]

[Text] Today, the people belonging to various parts of Eastern Province are leading a miserable life, as they are at a loss to understand what is the proper meaning of civil administration. We can observe today that the people living in the areas where civil administration is reported to have been restored, are finding it hard to digest the "civil administration" there. They are facing an unfortunate situation wherein they cannot even have the normal privileges enjoyed by the people from the areas which are not under military control. We can clearly understand the pathetic condition of the people living in the areas under civil administration through the report published by the YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association] Southern Zonal delegation on its observations after a visit to Batticaloa. In its report, the YMCA delegation has called for reducing the pressure being exerted on the people in the areas under "civil administration" and also for halting the torture of the peace-loving people. This delegation did not fail to pinpoint further shortcomings like the pathetic condition of the people living in the refugee camps in the civil administrative areas; defects in the rehabilitation work; difficulties being faced by people during their travel; lack of food and basic health amenities to refugees; and the disruption in the education of children. It is a dismal fact that in the delegation's observation, only the people living in the areas under the control of security forces are facing all these difficulties.

The people in the Eastern Province, especially from Batticaloa and Amparai Districts, are accustomed to leading their life as refugees after the Muslim-Tamil clashes in 1985. The sporadic incidents of violence that arose in the period after 1985, have caused damage to the life and property of people and forced thousands to lead a permanent life of refugees. A large number of people in the east have settled permanently in the place of their refuge itself. They are constrained to live in a pathetic condition wherein they cannot rebuild their damaged houses and get back their lost properties. The YMCA dignitaries are eyewitnesses to the fact that the regulations in the civil administrative areas are subjecting the people, who are getting ready for a new life after losing their life [as published] and property, to further suffering.

Today, it is imperative to make the government understand the fact that these people are depressed and impoverished. Immediate steps should be taken to rid them of this pathetic condition, which they are undergoing through no fault of their own. A senior military officer, who is also discharging his duties as joint security officer [as published], is in charge of civil administrative affairs in the Tamil regions. The numerous inconveniences for the people generally under a civil administrative system run by military authorities are unavoidable. It is quite essential to sympathetically view the prolonged sufferings of the people by all concerned in view of the impact of the present circumstances. The reality today is that only by overcoming the practical difficulties of people to the extent possible, will it be possible to restore normalcy in Tamil regions. Everyone should understand that the existing tough administrative measures should be relaxed and very light measures should be applied on the people which will lead them to prepare themselves for a life of rehabilitation.